

Jordan Times

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League to discuss Libya on Jan. 30

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League has transmitted to member states Libya's request for a special foreign ministers' meeting on Thursday to discuss possible reprisals for U.S. sanctions against Tripoli. Arab diplomatic sources said on Friday. Despite two postponements, the meeting is virtually certain to take place in Tunis on Jan. 30 as Libya has invoked a clause in the 21-member league's pact under which the meeting does not need a quorum, the sources added. The clause states that when a member country is under threat of aggression, a meeting on the issue can be held with less than a simple majority — 11 states — of the league's members represented. The league's meeting was postponed for a second time last week so that it could be held after a European Community (EC) foreign ministers' meeting in The Hague on Monday. The ministers are due to discuss U.S. calls to follow Washington's lead and impose economic sanctions on Libya.

Rebel forces take full control of Aden

ADEN (R) — Aden Radio said Friday that South Yemen's new leaders had appointed the prime minister, Haider Abu Bakar Al Attas, as interim head of state. It said the ruling Socialist Party's central committee had dismissed President Ali Nasser Mohammad and stripped him of all his official and party titles following nearly two weeks of bitter factional fighting. The radio statement said Mr. Mohammad faced trial, but it did not specify charges. His opponents in the Marxist ruling party had earlier accused him of trying to kill them and impose a dictatorship. Aden was returning to normal on Friday after bitter fighting which left an unofficial casualty toll of over 10,000 dead. Telephone links were restored to the outside world Friday evening. News summaries on Aden Radio and the television, which resumed normal broadcasting at four p.m. on Friday, said Mr. Mohammad's whereabouts were not known. They added, however, his forces and "counter-revolutionary elements" were trying to reassemble. Aden Radio reported that Interior Minister Colonel Mohammad Abdullah Al Botani, State

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King receives Eren's cable

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Thursday a cable from Turkish President Turgut Ersoy when the Turkish president's plane passed over Jordanian air space. In his cable President Ersoy wished the King good health and the people of Jordan more progress and prosperity. Mr. Ersoy was on his way home from Qatar after an official visit.

Syria denies holding Israeli POW

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria has denied reports from Israel that at least one of three Israeli soldiers missing during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon is being held prisoner in Syria. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement released on Thursday that both the International Red Cross and former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky had investigated the possibility that Israeli soldiers were being held in Syria and found out that "the Israeli claims are not valid." Dr. Kreisky and the Red Cross had arranged several prisoner swaps between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the wake of the 1982 invasion.

Egypt does not understand Israelis, Shamir says

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Friday Egypt did not understand the effect on the Israeli public of last October's shooting of seven Israeli soldiers by an Egyptian policeman in Sinai. "Seven Israelis were killed... without even an iota of justification. I have the impression that Egypt does not appreciate how intensely the Israeli people were affected. This must be explained to them," Shamir said. The transcript of Shamir's comments made no mention of Egypt's decision to reject Israeli demands for a full report on the shooting.

Nigeria changes oil minister

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian Oil Minister Tin David-West and Finance Minister Kulu Kalu were replaced in a cabinet shuffle on Friday. Mr. David-West changes jobs with Mines and Power Minister Kulu Kalu and Mr. Kalu changes places with National Planning Minister Chib Okongwu, an official statement said.

4th victim dies in Vienna airport attack

VIENNA (AP) — A fourth victim has died of wounds suffered in last month's attack on Vienna airport, hospital and government sources reported Friday. She was identified as Elisabeth Krieger, 26, an Austrian teacher planning an educational trip to Israel. The sources said Ms. Krieger died Wednesday. There was no explanation why the announcement was made two days after her death. Other victims killed in the incident included a Vienna high school teacher, an Israeli citizen and one of the three gunmen who had carried out the attack.

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Rebel forces take full control of Aden

Attas named interim head of state

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Aden Radio reported that Interior Minister Colonel Mohammad Abdullah Al Botani, State

Security Minister Ahmad Mosa'd Hussein and Abayan Province Governor Mohammad Ali Ahmad and other high-ranking military and civilian officials had also been dismissed.

Abayan is Mr. Mohammad's home province and sources in North Yemen had said earlier he was believed to have sought refuge to regroup his forces in the mountain stronghold.

The radio reported that some 55 officials from the Socialist Party politburo, the central committee, lower party bodies, the armed forces and the government had been killed in the power struggle.

They included Defence Minister Colonel Saleh Mosa'd Hussein, his predecessor Ali Ahmad Nassar, Central Committee Secretary Ali Assad Mokanna, his deputy Abdul Hamid Ahmad Saad, and the deputy chairman of the party praesidium, Mottaq Hassan.

Earlier reports had suggested Mr. Antar was emerging as one of the main leaders of the coup.

There was no mention of another reported coup leader, Marxist

ideologue Abdul Fatah Ismail, an ex-president who returned last year from five years of self-exile in Moscow.

The country's new leader told the Kuwait newspaper Al Watan by telephone from Moscow that Mr. Ismail was in good condition despite injuries received in the conflict.

Eyewitnesses said bodies were being removed from streets in these areas after two days of mopping-up operations ended on Thursday.

Residents were out shopping during the day on Friday, but stayed in their homes after sunset although there was no curfew. There were no reported shortages of foodstuffs.

Friday's decisions were announced after an emergency meeting of the party's policy-making central committee.

The fighting erupted on Jan. 13, with opponents of Mr. Mohammad accusing him of trying to kill other politburo members and impose a dictatorship.

The conflict appeared to have been confined to Aden and its immediate vicinity.

Eyewitnesses said most of the damage was in the areas of Crater, Mukalla and Swah, where some buildings had been destroyed in bitter battles involving tanks and artillery.

Christian leaders denounce Israeli actions in holy places

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of Christian communities in Jordan on Friday condemned Israel's aggression on Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron and pledged to defend the holy shrines in Jerusalem against all attempts for Judaizing them.

In a statement issued on Friday following a meeting at the Latin diocese to discuss the Israeli violations and encroachments upon holy places in Jerusalem, they said that the repeated Israeli aggression on the Islamic and Christian shrines, which began with Israeli aggression on Al Aqsa Mosque and Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, aim to Judaize Al Aqsa Mosque as a preparatory step to annexing Jerusalem and shaking the faith of the Arabs in the occupied Arab territories.

The Christian leaders voiced their unity with Muslims and said that Muslim and Christian shrines are the symbol of their unity and that what affects Al Aqsa Mosque also affects the Church of Holy Sepulchre.

In the statement, they also announced that defending Islamic and Christian shrines is a religious, humanitarian and sacred duty. They wished the Organisation of

Islamic Conference (OIC) every success and that it comes up with decisions other than mere condemnation and denunciation. They also expressed their willingness to join the conference as observers.

The statement was signed by Bishop Saba Ysaac, bishop of the Roman Catholic Church, Bishop Elias Khouri, bishop of the Arab Evangelical Church, Archimandrite Fabiana Toblian of the Armenian Orthodox Church and Archimandrite Peter Touma of the Assyrian Orthodox Church.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Committee ended a three-day meeting in Marakesh on Thursday after endorsing resolutions designed to expose Israel's illegal practices to the world and strengthen Arab-Islamic stands in the face of Israel's aggressive policies and violations of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said here upon returning home from the committee meeting.

Dr. Khayyat, who, along with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, attended the meeting held under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco, said that the delegates appealed to all Arab and

Muslim nations to show solidarity with regard to the Al Aqsa Mosque issue and formed a committee to hold direct contacts with Arab members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to concert their efforts and enlist other world organisations' help in confrontation of Israeli practices.

The committee issued a declaration containing an appeal to the United Nations and Pope John Paul to help put an end to Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and its drive to Judaize Al Aqsa Mosque and Al Ibrahim Mosque of Hebron, Dr. Khayyat added.

He said the committee stressed the need for Islamic nations to fulfil their financial commitments towards the two holy shrines. Dr. Khayyat said the meeting decided to devote the Friday sermons in every mosque on Jan. 31 to denounce Zionist schemes and practices aimed at destroying the holy mosque of Al Aqsa and Judaizing the holy city as well as distorting its Arab and Islamic features.

It also called for a work stoppage for a limited period throughout the Islamic World on Feb. 3 in protest against the Israeli violations, Dr. Khayyat added.

Blazing ship diverted away from oil rig

CROMER, England (R) — A Greek tanker collided with a Dutch trawler in the North Sea on Friday and burst into flames but was taken in tow as it headed towards a British gas field workers' rig, rescue officials said.

A Dutch tug succeeded in putting a line on board the 76,142-ton Orleans which five kilometres short of the Dvyl Gammarrig, from which most workers were evacuated as the blazing vessel drifted towards it, they added.

The salvage company Smit International told Reuters in Rotterdam that the tug was towing the tanker away from the Dvyl Gamma and a second rig, which were both near two party constructed gas platforms in the Sean gas field.

The British air force and the coast guard told Reuters that the blaze appeared to be under control.

Smit said it planned to tow the Orleans to a safe distance from the rigs and then to Rotterdam, unless the owners wanted a different course of action.

Brittan resigns

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Friday accepted the resignation of Trade Secretary Leon Brittan, the second minister to quit her cabinet in two weeks over the Westland crisis.

Mr. Brittan, who Mrs. Thatcher revealed on Thursday had authorised the leak of a secret government document on Westland, told her in a letter that he was aware he no longer had the full confidence of his Conservative Party colleagues.

His letter was issued by Mrs. Thatcher's Downing Street office several hours after she met the outgoing minister, who was one of her staunchest supporters.

Mr. Brittan told Mrs. Thatcher his continued membership of the government would be a source of weakness rather than strength and this was why he had decided to go.

Michael Heseltine, his main proponent in a cabinet battle over the near-bankrupt Westland helicopter company, quit the cabinet on Jan. 9.

Mr. Brittan's decision to quit the cabinet followed 24 hours of intense speculation about his political future which began after the

Urquhart urges PLO to accept U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart left Amman for Israel on Friday after talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai which centred on current developments in the Middle East.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Urquhart, who had just emerged from his meeting with the King on Thursday, called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which he described as "the only generally accepted basis for a resolution" of the Palestinian question.

Mr. Urquhart described current diplomatic efforts to move the Middle East peace process as "delicate but not unhelpful." He praised King Hussein's efforts to breathe life into the peace process.

"What he (the King) is trying to do is very important," he said.

Referring to the PLO's reluctance to accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for peace negotiations, Mr. Urquhart said: "I understand and appreciate the difficulties that the PLO is facing. But, nevertheless, something has to be done."

The U.N. official warned of the continuation of the political status quo in the region and said that with the absence of a movement towards peace, "the vacuum would be filled by other forces that are very violent."

Mr. Urquhart said that at this point, resolutions 242 and 338 are "the only generally accepted basis for a solution."

If this opportunity is not seized, he warned, "we will be missing a valuable chance for achieving peace."

He said the problem of Palestinian representation is "the last sticking point" in the peace process.

Expressing his personal opinion, Mr. Urquhart said that Israel had no right to determine who does or does not represent the Palestinian people. "In my 40 years working for the U.N., I have never heard of such a thing happening before," he said of the Israeli insistence on excluding the PLO from peace negotiations.

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat due here for talks with King on peace efforts

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman on Saturday for crucial talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Middle East peace efforts, informed sources said Friday.

The talks will be the first between the two leaders since November when Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), visited Amman.

The meeting follows stepped up diplomatic efforts to find an acceptable framework for Middle East peace talks within an international conference. Special American Middle East envoy Richard Murphy was in Europe last week holding talks with the King, who was visiting London. Mr. Murphy also met with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and held four rounds of talks with him.

Mr. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, left London on Friday after lengthy talks with Peres. The Israeli prime minister told reporters after the

meetings that the talks with U.S. envoy that they had made "some progress" towards arranging Middle East peace talks.

No Jordanian official was immediately available for comment.

Peres' statements to the press indicated that Israel was still insisting on excluding the PLO from any peace talks. An Israeli official said on Thursday that Peres was willing to open talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which the Palestinian side will be represented by Palestinian mayors from the occupied West Bank or Palestinian members of the Jordanian Parliament.

The King's talks with Mr. Arafat are expected to focus on Jordan's request that the PLO announce its acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, according to a senior Jordanian official.

The PLO has been maintaining that the two resolutions could not form the only basis for peace negotiations with Israel. A PLO meeting in Baghdad which was expected to take a decision on the

Jordanian request did not tackle the issue and a statement issued after the meeting did not refer to the subject.

The PLO appears to be moving towards strengthening relations with the Soviet Union after Moscow is reported to have offered to mediate the PLO's differences with Syria and Damascus-based PLO dissidents.

One Israeli official was quoted in London as saying that Peres' talks with Mr. Murphy "concentrated on two issues: the composition of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in peace talks and the role that could be played by an international conference."

He said the two sides were dealing with "grey, everyday work about nitty gritty details." Reuter quoted the official as saying.

In an interview in London with an American television, Peres said "there is a growing scepticism about the participation of the PLO in the negotiations."

(Continued on page 3)

Crown Prince calls for more ICRC attention on Arabs under occupation

GENEVA (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to give more attention to the health conditions of Arab people under Israeli rule and urged the ICRC to promote its efforts for alleviating the sufferings of the Sudanese people affected by drought and famine.

Prince Hassan was speaking at a meeting with ICRC Chairman Alexander Hay soon after his arrival on Thursday for a working visit expected to last several days.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said that the Crown Prince's meeting with Mr. Hay also focused on the obstacles placed by the Israeli authorities to prevent an improvement in the health conditions of the Arab population.

The agency said that Prince Hassan will take up the question of the Arab population in the occupied territory and the arbitrary actions they are facing in talks with officials from the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Prince Hassan has also urged ICRC to help provide assistance to the Sudanese people in the face of famine and the dangers of drought. He said assistance to Sudan from international agencies was not enough and could not cope with the dangerous situation, Petra said.

He discussed with Mr. Hay promoting cooperation between ICRC and voluntary institutions and societies now functioning in Sudan to help raise the standards of health services to people in rural regions and stem the spread of disease in certain regions hit by drought.

Prince Hassan called at the headquarters of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues where he met with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan who co-chairs the commission with the Crown Prince.

Hobeika meets Khaddam, pledges to score against rivals

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Ousted Lebanese rightist militia leader Elie Hobeika pledged on Thursday to return to Beirut and Syria reiterated its determination to implement a peace pact at the root of a bitter rift between Lebanon's Christians.

"We will certainly go back to Beirut," Mr. Hobeika told newsmen after two hours of talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Hobeika was driven from Beirut last week by mostly Christian rightist forces opposed to the peace pact he signed here last month with Lebanon's two other main militias. It envisages giving more power to Lebanon's Muslim majority and reducing the prerogatives of the Christian-held presidency.

President Amin Gemayel has refused to endorse the pact, and forces loyal to him last week sided with rightist militia rebels in battles with Mr. Hobeika's men that killed 200.

Mr. Khaddam said on Thursday the plan he helped put together still had Syria's unwavering support "because it constitutes the national framework for ending Lebanon's bloody ordeal," the official Syrian news agency (SANA) said.

Syria is mulling both military and political options to keep the accord alive, and has moved up tanks and artillery to reinforce pro-Syrian militiamen besieging Mr. Gemayel's home village of Bikfaya in the mountains above Beirut.

Sources close to Mr. Hobeika said earlier he would return to Lebanon within 24 hours to marshal support for a fresh drive to topple the president. "The downfall of Gemayel is a must," one source said. "There is no other alternative."

Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri and Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, who have also demanded Mr. Gemayel's removal, were expected to meet Mr. Hobeika, who arrived Wednesday night from Paris.

Muslim leaders were also due in Damascus on Thursday to lend support to a Christian-Muslim front intended to bring Mr. Gemayel down.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami and other Muslim politicians have refused to deal with Mr. Gemayel since Mr. Hobeika's ouster.

In Beirut, rival Christian militia chiefs fought for battle as pro-Syrian fighters built up their ring of steel around President Gemayel's village.

Beirut media said Mr. Hobeika on Thursday paid a fleeting tour of front-line positions around Bikfaya.

Radios said pro-Syrian militia gunners shelled the president's mountain stronghold again on Friday after a night of heavy rocket, mortar and artillery duels with army units.

Mr. Hobeika's arch-rival, rebel "Lebanese Forces" leader Samir Geagea, told the French-language news magazine Nouveau his men were ready to defend Christian areas of the country.

Rebels seize parts of Kampala

KAMPALA (Agencies) — National Resistance Army (NRA) guerrillas captured parts of Kampala city centre on Friday and blew up the capital's largest barracks, witnesses quoted by Reuter said.

As the city appeared about to fall to the guerrillas, government soldiers went on the rampage, shooting civilians or slitting their throats in the worst violence since the two sides signed an abortive peace accord five weeks ago.

Several people living in Katwe suburb had their throats slit while troops fired shots into a crowd listening to a speech by defence force chief Lieutenant-General Bazilio Okello, the witnesses said.

They quoted Gen. Okello as saying Makerere University and Rubaga Roman Catholic Cathedral were under NRA control and as advising his troops to "run

and hide" from the guerrillas.

Huge clouds of smoke were seen billowing from Lubiri barracks after an ammunition dump was hit by a shell and hundreds of people ran in panic from fleeing soldiers.

Travel agents in Nairobi said Entebbe airport, 30 kilometres south-west of the capital, had been closed until further notice because of the chaos.

Ugandan sources said fighting was also taking place east of Kampala, on the road to the industrial town of Jinja, suggesting that the NRA had surrounded the capital.

Radio Kampala, which was under government control until at least 1.15 p.m., later went off the air but this has happened frequently in recent months due to technical and staffing problems.

Western and African diplomats in Kampala said they were not planning to evacuate their nationals at present but they were monitoring the situation closely.

An African envoy, who asked not to be identified, commented: "Things do seem to be getting out of hand rapidly... you can hear heavy gunfire everywhere if you listen carefully."

Informed Western sources said the NRA soldiers were greeted with cheers Thursday night when they seized control of Rubaga Roman Catholic Cathedral, where up to 4,000 people have taken refuge from the fighting.

Western sources, who asked not to be identified, told Reuter they were monitoring events from their homes as they had been advised by their embassies to stay indoors.

He said it was not possible to judge how many NRA troops were in central Kampala but they had moved in during early Friday.

Iraqi raid damages Iran's oil complex at Ganaveh

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi Air Force chief, Air Marshal Hameed Sha'aban, was reported Friday as saying an Iraqi air attack Thursday had destroyed a key Iranian oil complex.

He was quoted by the government daily Al Jumhuriya as saying the attack on the complex at Ganaveh, the main end of the oil supply pipeline to the Kharg Island export terminal, meant "Iranian oil exports will be crippled."

"The air force is quite sure that the target was fully destroyed according to aerial photographs," he said.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA reported that firemen extinguished a fire on a pipeline at Ganaveh and "damage inflicted was minor and would have no effect on Iranian oil exports."

Al Jumhuriya quoted Marshal Sha'aban as saying the Iraqi Air Force was working "within a defined and well-studied plan to finish off gradually all enemy potentials to continue the war."

He said aerial photographs also showed recent intensive raids on Iranian troop buildups had inf-

licted heavy losses in men and equipment. Iran would face catastrophe if it launched a fresh offensive, he added.

An Iraqi military spokesman, reading a communiqué on the state radio, said Thursday the central oil pump at Ganaveh which feeds all the pipelines leading to the Kharg Island oil terminal was raided by Iraqi jet fighters.

Two "large maritime targets," Iraq's military reference to tankers, were separately raided at 9:20 p.m. Wednesday (1820 GMT) and at 12:35 a.m. Thursday (0935 GMT) off the Iranian coast, the spokesman added.

"The sudden, sweeping and devastating raid turned the Ganaveh station to rubble," according to the spokesman.

He said the two raids sustained "accurate and effective hits."

Gulf shipping executives had no immediate confirmation of eit-

her the Ganaveh raid or the ship attacks. They said that, if the attack on Ganaveh were confirmed, the Iranians would be left with about 300,000 barrels to export from the offshore oil fields around Kharg and the Lavan terminal further south.

Ganaveh is 45 kilometres northeast of Kharg Island. The oil pump at the coastal city controls the whole network of pipelines through which oil is pumped to the terminal originally designed to handle 90 per cent of Iran's crude exports, according to a Baghdad-based oil industry source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The raiding Iraqi jets "returned safely to base after setting ablaze this extremely vital target and turning it into rubble," said the spokesman who was not identified in line with regulations imposed since outbreak of the Gulf war.

The attack, he explained, was launched to "strip our enemy of all the means that enable him to prolong the war."

He pledged that Iraq will maintain such attacks until "the enemy halts its aggression."

ording to the oil industry source, "obviously aims at cutting off Kharg completely."

"If the Ganaveh pump was destroyed as the Iraqi military spokesman says, then oil will stop flowing to Kharg and consequently the shuttle to Sirri (makeshift) terminal will stop," the source said.

President Saddam Hussein, meanwhile, chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command to discuss preparations to confront any Iranian attack, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

He warned that an Iranian attack would bring heavy casualties among Tehran's forces, the agency said.

Iran said Friday that Iraq jets a day earlier had struck a civilian bus near the town of Ganaveh, killing five people and wounding 20 others.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said that the raid also inflicted "minor" damage to a pipeline in the region.

"It will be repaired by Iranian oil experts shortly... and will have no effect on Iran's oil exports," IRNA said.

Italy issues warrant to arrest Abu Nidal

ROME (R) — A Rome magistrate investigating the Dec. 27 attack at Rome's Fiumicino Airport in which 16 people died has issued an international warrant for the arrest of Palestinian leader Abu Nidal, charging him with multiple homicide, the magistrate's office said.

Magistrate Domenico Sica's office did not give reasons for the warrant against Abu Nidal, whose group has been accused of carrying out the attacks on Rome and Vienna airports.

Judicial sources said Mr. Sica had stated he also held Abu Nidal and his group responsible for other recent attacks in the Italian capital — a bazooka raid on the Jordanian embassy in April 1985, a grenade attack on the Cafe De Paris and the bombing of a British Airways office in September.

During his investigation Mr. Sica has interrogated one com-mando who survived the gun battle at Fiumicino Airport on Dec. 27 and has conferred with Austrian investigators.

The warrant was handed to Italian police, who were expected to ask for international cooperation in tracing Abu Nidal.

The United States has accused Libya of harbouring and helping Abu Nidal, accusing his group of planning and carrying out a series of attacks in Europe and the Mediterranean region. Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi has denied the allegation.

The international arrest warrant issued Thursday asks countries belonging to the international police network Inter-pol to arrest Abu Nidal if he enters their territory, judicial sources said.

They said the United States and other countries were believed to have issued similar warrants for Abu Nidal for his alleged part in earlier attacks.

The Corriere Della Sera newspaper last week quoted another Palestinian official, Ahmad Jibril, as saying Abu Nidal "is not in either Libya or Syria. Abu Nidal spends most of his time in Iran."

Abu Nidal, who commands a radical faction opposed to the policies of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, was reported in the same interview to have recently undergone a heart operation in Sweden.

Mohammad Sarham, the sole survivor of four gunmen at Fiumicino, is in a maximum security prison at Spoleto north of Rome.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead last Friday handed Italian authorities what he called "incontrovertible evidence" that Libya had a hand in the airport attacks, but no details of the evidence have so far emerged.

Earlier this month an Abu Dhabi-based newspaper, Al Wihda, quoted Abu Nidal as saying his group carried out the two airport attacks.

Italy has issued a separate warrant for the arrest of another Palestinian leader, Abu Abbas, on a charge of hijacking the cruise liner Achille Lauro last October.

Lone helicopter lifts over 200 South Yemen evacuees to safety

DJIBOUTI (R) — A lone British navy helicopter transferred more than 200 refugees from the heaving decks of a cargo ship to the frigate Newcastle as a multinational evacuation of foreigners from South Yemen drew to a close.

The Newcastle docked in Djibouti Friday with 248 foreign evacuees aboard after the ship's Lynx helicopter had hovered over the British cargo ship Diamond Princess plunging in heavy seas during the transfer Thursday.

The Newcastle's commander, Capt. Peter Erskine, said the helicopter, nicknamed "Garfield" after the cartoon cat, had winched the evacuees up one-by-one during an operation lasting more than eight hours.

"No one on board is aware of anything comparable having been carried out with a single helicopter," Capt. Erskine said.

As a warship, the Newcastle had remained outside territorial waters while the 3,000-ton Diamond Princess entered the port of Makalla, 435 kilometres north east of Aden, to take on foreigners fleeing nearly two weeks of bitter fighting in South Yemen.

Some of the evacuees had come from Seyun, 320 kilometres inland, where they were working on a water project, while others — including 150 Filipinos and 40 Danes — had been working on water and sewage projects in Makalla itself.

The British Royal Yacht Britannia docked here Thursday night with another 427 evacuees on board, most of them construction workers from India and Pakistan.

The Britannia left Djibouti Friday to resume its voyage to New Zealand for an official visit by Queen Elizabeth next month.

More than 6,000 foreigners have been evacuated from South Yemen since Jan. 13, when bitter fighting erupted between Marxist factions of the ruling Socialist Party.

"In terms of extracting British subjects, the task is complete," said Capt. Erskine, commander of the four-ship British naval task force which joined French and Soviet vessels in the evacuation.

"But we are here operating on the basis of taking European and Commonwealth subjects as well. We go back to Aden and maintain association with the authorities," he added.

British officials said 850 Indians, 100 Little Ache, west of the capital, had said they wanted to leave.

Ships waiting at Djibouti Port faced delays of 12 hours or more Friday as the multi-national fleet continued to disembark refugees.

Nearly all Soviet nationals have been pulled out of South Yemen after 11 days of fighting, the British ambassador to Aden said Friday.

Ambassador Arthur Marshall told reporters on HMS Jupiter, a frigate in a British task force, that rebels appeared to have clinched their hold on the capital, Aden, Thursday.

French and Soviet ships, steamed toward Djibouti with hundreds more. About 6,000 have now left, at least two-thirds of them Russians.

Mr. Marshall said the Soviet embassy "was the target of deliberate gunfire and had been severely damaged. The Soviet ambassador had left, along with nearly all his 500 or so compatriots in South Yemen."

Damage from tank bombardment could be seen all over the embassy's facade and had been severely damaged. The Soviet ambassador had left, along with nearly all his 500 or so compatriots in South Yemen.

Days of delicate talks preceded Friday's evacuation. "What made the situation critical yesterday was that the evacuation programme coincided with the final rapping up of hard-core resistance by one side in the Tawahi district (around the port)," Mr. Marshall said.

The port area was still in the hands of (President Ali) Nasser Muhammad yesterday but some side opposed to Ali Nasser has now gained control.

He added: "I've been told the main hospital is full of dying people, many of them unattended. We have heard stories of massacres."

With the apparent rebel victory in the capital, the ambassador said, "there seems to be a recipe there for a resumption of normal life. The general desire of the people is that things get back to normal."

Mr. Marshall was one of 18 Britons evacuated Friday on the Britannia.

He said no more than a dozen Britons remained in South Yemen.

A Soviet merchant marine officer worked on board the British royal yacht Britannia during the evacuation of foreign nationals from South Yemen, British officials disclosed Thursday.

They said the officer used the Britannia's facilities to keep open communications between Moscow and the sheltered Soviet embassy in the South Yemeni capital of Aden and to help coordinate the rescue operation on shore.

"He did an extremely useful job," British Junior Defence Minister John Stanley told reporters.

Djibouti bustles with refugees

Meanwhile a hundred Pakistani labourers in baggy trousers and knee-length shirts lounged by the pool at a luxury hotel in Djibouti, munching pasta. In the opulence of the ceremonial Palais Du Peuple, grey-clad Chinese await lodging.

"Djibouti has never seen so many at a single time," says Lefty Repapis, general manager of the Djibouti Sheraton, a staging point for thousands of evacuees from embattled Aden.

Coming hard on the heels of a conference on drought which brought five African heads of state and dozens of journalists to town, the tide of refugees has placed fresh strains on the normally sleepy city's hotels, restaurants and communications.

At the Sheraton evacuees have been sleeping six to a room. Communications officials have been swamped with applications for satellite links from television networks covering the evacuation, while dozens more journalists and the evacuees themselves have taxed telex and telephone links to the limit.

"We have had to work hard," one official said. "It's the first time we've had such a demand for communications."

The air of excitement contrasts sharply with the customary tranquillity of the former French colony of 400,000.

Many people still escape the afternoon heat for a languid chew of the narcotic leaf Qat, a legacy of Djibouti's longtime links with the Yemens, and business comes to a standstill.

But the refugees, often traumatised by days spent pinned down by rocket, tank, artillery and small-arms fire in Aden, are anxious to return home as soon as possible. The biggest contingent — the Soviets — was flown immediately to Moscow by a fleet of Aeroflot jets.

"The evacuees are in such a hurry to leave," laments a waiter at an outdoor cafe in the Place Vennelik, a dusty square ringed with palm trees and arched plaster shopfronts. "They have 24 or 48 hours before their plane so they have a coffee or a soft drink, but then they leave."

Djiboutis are sensitive to suggestions they are profiting from the evacuees' plight. But said a Western diplomat, "Djibouti certainly isn't suffering from it, what with port dues, airport taxes and full hotels and restaurants."

The extra demand for satellite circuits has given Djibouti, communications hub of the Horn of Africa, an opportunity to make full use of newly-installed links with the Arabsat network, the Arabsat Communications Satellite launched last year.

Port and communications development are priorities in Djibouti, which has remained partly dependent on French aid and a large French military presence since independence in 1977.

It sees its economic future, however, as a service centre built on a free enterprise system along the lines of Hong Kong or Singapore.

Carter offers help to Sudan

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter left Sudan for Tanzania with a group of agricultural experts after a one-day private visit during which he offered Sudan help in fighting desertification.

Mr. Carter is among delegates of a private organisation, the Green Revolution in Africa, comprising prominent international figures, mainly Americans and Japanese.

Mr. Carter, who met Sudanese leader General Abdul Rahman Swaredhab, told reporters before leaving Thursday the organisation wanted to see the Sudanese people produce their own food in their fight against famine.

"We are primarily concerned with the ability of the Sudanese people to produce their own food and be self-sufficient and even exporters of grain," he said.

The Green Revolution in Africa has a five-year project to combat famine on the continent through agricultural development, particularly by increasing production of sorghum and maize. The group is also expected to visit Zambia and Ghana.

Mr. Carter on Thursday praised a clandestine U.S.-sponsored airlift to Israel of Ethiopian Jews for which a former Sudanese vice-president faces a possible death sentence.

Mr. Carter said had he been president, he would have done as Ronald Reagan did.

"The action of my country was trying to find freedom for those people and was part of a humanitarian effort," Mr. Carter said.

Israel calm as Egypt refuses to give full report

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli officials reacted with unexpected calmness Friday to Egypt's rejection of their demands for a full report on last October's shooting of seven Israeli tourists by an Egyptian policeman in Sinai.

"In fact, many of our questions have already been answered," an official spokesman said.

Mohammad Bassioni, chief Egyptian envoy to Israel, said Thursday that providing the report to a foreign country would violate Egyptian sovereignty. Cairo would instead provide a transcript of proceedings at the policeman's trial, he said.

An Israeli cabinet resolution made delivery of a full report on the shooting a condition for Israeli acceptance of arbitration, as sought by Egypt, in the Taba border dispute.

The official spokesman told reporters Friday: "Let us wait and see if the trial transcript provides answers to the questions we have asked."

"If answers are not provided, we will then ask for a full report."

Only 48 hours ago there were indications that failure by Egypt to provide the report might cause a crisis between the two countries.

Only hours before Mr. Bassioni made his statement, Israeli officials said the diplomat had promised the report would be delivered imminently.

There was no immediate explanation as to why Israel was apparently adopting a far more conciliatory attitude towards the issue than previously.

First signs that the report might not be forthcoming led to criticism of Prime Minister Shimon Peres by right-wingers on the grounds that he was too accommodating towards Egypt.

Israel's government was split for months on the issue of who should have sovereignty over the tiny Taba border enclave in Sinai.

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Kahane: Peres will hold elections

WASHINGTON (R) — Extreme rightist Rabbi Meir Kahane has predicted Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres would refuse to hand over power to Yitzhak Shamir in October as scheduled and would call an election instead.

"We believe that there is going to be an election in Israel within six to eight months," he told a news conference.

"Shimon Peres, that parasite, will never keep his word to turn over the prime ministership to Mr. Shamir," he said.

Under a coalition agreement between Peres' Labour Party and Shamir's right-wing Likud-Herut, the two should lead the government for 25 months each.

Kahane predicted that after the next election his Kach Movement, or Jewish Defence League of Israel, would be the third largest party in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset.

"We expect to take at least eight seats from Ariel Sharon's (Likud-Herut) Party," he said.

Kahane, whose main policy is the expulsion of Arabs from Israel, said: "Israel has one of two choices — to do nothing and risk the fact that the Knesset will have 61 Arab members in an Arab-Jewish coalition or to complete an exchange of populations."

There are more than half a million Arabs among Israel's 4.25 million population but Kahane says Arabs will soon outnumber Jews because of higher Arab birth rates and reduced Jewish immigration to Israel.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19	21:00 News Summary 21:05 25 Years of Rock 21:10 News Summary 21:15 The Blues 21:20 News Summary 21:25 Country Music 21:30 News Headlines 21:35 Close down
MAIN CHANNEL 16:20 News 16:25 Cartoons 16:30 Children programmes 16:35 Play It Safe 16:40 Different Stories 16:45 Local Series 16:50 News Feature 16:55 News in Arabic 17:00 Arabic Series 17:05 Tomorrow's programme 17:10 Arabic Film 17:15 News in Arabic 17:20 Film Continued	
FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 French Programme: Ecole des fans 18:30 les grands travaux de l'archéologie 19:00 News in French 19:10 Berguini set film 19:20 News in Arabic 19:25 Your Language 19:30 Saturday Variety Show 19:35 News in English 19:40 Feature film: Never Say Goodbye — Rock Hudson	
RADIO JORDAN 8.1 KHz AM & 90 MHz FM 8 points on 550 KHz AM Tel: 7-1111-19	07:00 Light Music 07:30 News Summary 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 09:00 Pop Session 09:30 News Summary 10:00 Pop Session cont. 10:30 News Summary 11:00 Pop Session cont. 11:30 News Bulletin 11:40 Jordan Weekly 11:50 Music 12:00 Concert Hour 12:05 News Summary 12:10 Instrumentals 12:15 Old Favourites 12:20 Talking Points 12:25 Animal Vegetable Mineral 12:30 News Summary 12:35 Top Twenty 12:40 News 12:45 Date with a Star 12:50 The 15th Century A.H. 12:55 The Young Sound

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Mon-Tue, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
EXHIBITION	* French exhibition entitled "Naisance de l'Ecriture" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30)
FILM	* German film for children entitled "Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten" at 4:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.
CINEMA	* "La maison des Borles" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.
LECTURE	* A lecture in French by Jean Michel de Tarragon on "The Beginning of Writing" at 6:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.
CULTURAL CENTRES	Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 American Centre - 643771 American Cultural Library - 641520 British Council - 6361478 French Cultural Centre - 637009 Goethe Institute - 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre - 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre - 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre - 639771 Haya Arts Centre - 665195 Hussein Youth City - 667181 Y.W.C.A. - 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. - 664251 American Municipal Library - 637111 University of Jordan Library - 843555
MUSEUMS	Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651740. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliff Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
CHURCHES	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lwehdeh, 637440. De la Saie Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 635541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678906. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 171351.
PRAYER TIMES	05:13 Fajr 06:33 Sunrise 11:48 Dhuhr 16:41 Asr 17:01 Maghreb 18:23 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	This information is supplied by Alia Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 522000, where it is available always by verified.
ARRIVALS	06:30 Cairo (MS) 06:30 London, Lebanon (BA) 06:45 Kuwait (KU) 09:35 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:45 Kuwait (KU) 09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:10 Riyadh (RJ) 10:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 13:45 Kuwait (KU) 16:30 London, Lebanon (BA) 17:30 New York, Cairo (MS) 17:30 Cairo (RJ) 18:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 18:15 Beirut (MEA) 18:30 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF) 19:30 Tripoli (RJ) 19:55 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 20:55 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH) 21:15 Beirut (MEA) 21:15 Baghdad (IA) 01:20 Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	06:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 06:30 Cairo (RJ) 07:15 London, Lebanon (BA) 09:10 Larnaca, London (BA) 10:30 Paris, Tripoli (RJ) 11:30 Paris, Brussels (LH) 12:00 London (RJ) 12:15 Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ) 12:15 Vienna, New York (RJ) 13:00 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 13:00 London (RJ) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 15:00 Kuwait (KU) 15:30 Kuwait (KU) 15:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:15 Jeddah (RJ) 20:30 Baghdad (RJ) 20:35 Cairo (RJ) 21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 21:30 Baghdad (RJ) 01:15 Baghdad (IA)
MARITIME TRAFFIC	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: — Konkak Posidon — Yang Ding Amin Kammar and Sons Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.
WEATHER	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. The weather will be cold and frosty in the morning. There will be medium and high clouds with chances of scattered rains.
MONEY EXCHANGE	Thursday rates Local currency rates in Jds Bahraini dinar 132.9 Dutch guilder 209.1 Egyptian pound 20.9 French franc 48.8 Swiss lire 176.6 Japanese yen (for 100) 182.1 Kuwaiti dinar 127.0 Lebanese lira 15.1 Omani rial 106.9 Qatari riyal 101.1 Saudi riyal 101.1 Swedish crown 48.1 Swiss franc 176.6 Syrian lire 20.9 UAE sheqel 100.0 U.K. sterling pound 513.8 U.S. dollar 367.7 W. German mark 149.7

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	Amman government 891228 Amman civil defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Unit 273131 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downy fire brigade 62-198 First aid 630341 Blood bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622900-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 896390/1 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Amman water supply 771125/8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 5333060
NIGHT DUTY	AMMAN: Dr. A. Al-Awad 773463 Dr. Yousef Samara 663254 Firas pharmacy 661912 Al Salam pharmacy 636790 Fayez pharmacy 661627 Khaleel Ibn Al-Walid pharmacy 674703 Ya'ish pharmacy 524435 Jabal Al Taj pharmacy 771050 TAXIS: Rainbow taxi 637249 Karak taxi 663003 Al Jihad taxi 672643 Qasem taxi 663273 Shu'a'a taxi 644263 Sports City taxi 663273 IRBID: Dr. Fadiyeh Jabour (—) Bashir pharmacy 243147 Wardah pharmacy 243153 ZARQA: Dr. Fayed Abdul Aziz 985299 Palestine pharmacy 983562
HOSPITALS	Hussein Medical Centre 813813.32 Khaleel Maternity, J. Amm 642816 Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Madina, J. Amman 624049 Palestine, Shmeizani 664171/4 Shmeizani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 8458

NEWS IN BRIEF

French chief of staff ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — General Bernard Capillon, chief of staff of the French Air Force, and the accompanying delegation left Amman Friday after a five-day visit to Jordan. During his visit Gen. Capillon met with senior officials and visited a number of military facilities and archaeological sites in the country. Gen. Capillon was seen off at Amman military airport by the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, French Ambassador in Amman Patrick Leclercq and a number of high-ranking air force officers.

Arab speakers congratulate Lawzi

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi has received a cable of good wishes from Speaker of the Algerian People's National Council Rabih Bitat on the occasion of Mr. Lawzi's reappointment for a second term of office. A similar cable was received from Mr. Muhammad Subhi Abd al Hakim, speaker of the Egyptian Consultative Council.

Fayez, Kuwaiti envoy hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez Thursday held talks with the Kuwaiti ambassador in Jordan on bilateral relations between Jordan and Kuwait.

Subhi meets WHO representative

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Health Ministry Sulaiman Subhi Thursday met with Dr. Abdul Majid Abdul Hadi, representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and coordinator of its programmes in Jordan and Syria.

New incentives for free zone companies

AMMAN (Petra) — Private share-holding companies operating in the free zones in Jordan are now permitted to increase their capital and their number of shareholders in a bid to help them expand their services, according to a decision issued by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh. The minister said that such companies will not have a ceiling for their capital and can raise their number of shareholders to 50, provided they retain their legal status as private share-holding entities. He added that the step is designed to encourage shareholding companies to operate in the free zones in Jordan.

Municipal official returns from Sana'a

AMMAN (Petra) — Assistant Administrator at Amman Municipality Yahya Omeri returned to Amman after a two-week visit to the Arab Republic of Yemen where he took part in the drawing of a draft law for the Yemeni capital of Sana'a.

Hmoud approves Aqaba's budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud has approved the JD 620,213 budget for Aqaba municipality. The budget included allocations for the construction of gardens, parks and schools, in addition to asphalted roads and supporting the public library. It also included allocations for contributing to the building of mosques and lighting streets.



PRINCE HASSAN LEAVES FOR GENEVA off at the airport by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is seen prior to his departure to Geneva (Petra photo)

Jordan, Egypt to sign charter for joint fishing company

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Egypt will today sign an initial agreement to prepare articles of association and a basic charter for a joint maritime fishing venture with a capital of \$10 million, according to Egyptian Ministry of Planning and International Investment first secretary Midhat Abdul Aziz who arrived here on Friday. Mr. Aziz is due to discuss terms of implementation with his Jordanian counterparts following which the project would be operational.

Mr. Aziz told the Jordan Times that the venture, which will operate subsidiaries in both countries, is the first outcome of a joint holding company which has the objective of carrying out feasible development projects in Jordan and Egypt.

The establishment of the holding company, which has a capital of \$50 million shared equally by the two countries, was initially signed between Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Kamal Jazouli and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher during a visit the latter made to Cairo late last year.

Mr. Aziz is expected to meet Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Under Secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf to review the activities of the Jordanian-Egyptian company for investment and development. They will also ratify an initial agreement for the fishing company and will complete procedures for its full-scale operation.

Egypt and Jordan undertook to set up and carry out joint ventures in trade and industry related affairs after Jordan restored full diplomatic ties with Egypt in 1984.

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Kayed receives message from Moroccan interior minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed has received a message from his Moroccan counterpart Idris Al Busari dealing with arrangements for holding an Arab ministers of interior conference in Casablanca in the coming month. The message was delivered to Mr. Kayed by Mr. Mustafa Al Qamhi, a governor at the Interior Ministry in Rabat. The conference has been slated to open on Feb. 4.

Mr. Kayed was quoted by the Qatari News Agency as saying that Jordan's relations with Syria were "stable and improving." He was said to have made the statement to Al Watan Al Arabi magazine, published in Paris, in which he described his recent visit to Syria as paving the way for a return to normal relations between Jordan and Syria.

In the interview, Mr. Kayed was also reported to have denied that Jordan intends to issue passports to Palestinians living in Lebanon or Gaza, but he described Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as those characterising the relationship within the same family.

Obeid attends Arab transport ministers meeting in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — The council of Arab transport ministers began its first session in Tunis Friday to discuss a draft transport strategy in the Arab World and Minister of Transport and chairman of the session Farhi Obeid delivered a speech in which he stressed that the council's ultimate goal is to facilitate the movement of Arab citizens and Arab products freely and without any restrictions between Arab countries.



Farhi Obeid

Mr. Obeid told the council that it should work to achieve this goal in order to serve Arab citizens and Arab economic integration and he also called for developing the Arab air, land and sea transport services and providing qualified staff to run the transport sector and its facilities.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Abdul Hassan Zalzalah said that the council of Arab transport ministers holds its first session in very grave regional and international circumstances because of the aggression to which the region is exposed. In his speech Dr. Zalzalah also called for intensifying transport networks between east and west Arab countries.

During their two-day meetings, the Arab transport ministers will study problems and obstacles facing unions and organisations working in the transport sector. They will also discuss a suggestion which calls for the establishment of an Arab commission for the registration of ships as well as a study related to the manufacture of transport vehicles used in the Arab World. The U.S. economic threats against Libya are scheduled to be discussed during the present session.

Obeid discusses transport issues with Tunisian, Saudi counterparts

Mr. Obeid said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, correspondent in Tunis that the talks he held Thursday with his Tunisian counterpart Mohammad Karim were "fruitful and constructive." He added that the two sides agreed to operate four weekly flights between the two countries two of which will be operated by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline to Tunisia and Maghreb Arab countries and the other two flights will be operated by the Tunisian airlines to Amman. Mr. Obeid said that operating these flights between the two countries is in implementation of a bilateral air transport agreement.

Also on Thursday, Mr. Obeid met with his Saudi Arabian counterpart to review topics on the ministers agenda and to discuss Jordan's cooperation with Saudi Arabia in transport-related affairs. According to Mr. Obeid, the Saudi minister welcomed Jordan's proposal for transporting Egyptian Muslim pilgrims to Mecca via the land-sea route linking Aqaba with Sinai and said his government would study the proposal. Mr. Obeid said that when he was in Cairo he discussed the subject with his Egyptian counterpart Saleem Mawalli who also welcomed the idea.

Mr. Obeid said that he and Mr. Mawalli discussed means of bolstering transport cooperation between Egypt and Jordan and the performance of the land sea route linking the two countries. The past year registered a 70 per cent increase in the route's operations over those of the previous year, Mr. Obeid said. He continued that his talks with Mr. Mawalli covered the implementation of decisions taken by the joint Egyptian-Jordanian transport committee.

While in Cairo, Mr. Obeid met with Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fuad Sultan with whom he discussed bilateral cooperation in tourism in accordance with resolutions adopted by the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee.

Discussing his visit to Cairo, Mr.

Ministry completes study on engineering service contracts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Public Works construction sectors committee has finished a study on a model agreement for organising the performance of engineering services in cases of contracts between government departments and consulting engineering offices.

The committee has also submitted its recommendations to the cabinet for official approval.

Minister of Public Works and the committee's chairman Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh said that the

agreement is designed to organise the performance of engineering offices and to improve their standards. Among the major points included in the proposed agreement is a performance bond and a standard of performance for the consulting engineering office. The proposed agreement also defines the responsibility of the employer towards the consulting office with regard to payments, provision of information and documents, appointment of liaison engineers as well as engineering service fees.

First regional workshop on rainfed agriculture ends

By Munir Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A workshop on soil water and crop/livestock management systems for rainfed agriculture in the Near East, concluded Thursday in Amman. The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other international and Jordanian institutions.

The selection of adapted cropping patterns, appropriate crops and rotational grazing systems are among the most efficient measures to curb soil erosion and to make the best possible use of the available water in rainfed agriculture, said Dr. James Parr of the USAID Dryland Management Project. In addition, it is necessary to increase the water retention and storage capacity of soils by soil conservation measures, he said.

The improvement of the productivity and stability of rainfed agriculture is the aim of a series of workshops to be held for participants from Near East countries, and the one which has just concluded is the first of them, Dr. Parr added.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss means overcoming the main constraint in the development of rainfed agriculture in the region, as it was identified by the participants of another workshop held in Jordan in March 1985: as a severe lack of basic information and research on soil and water management, the representative of USAID in Jordan William Furtick said.

Data exchange network

A special international data base exchange network, in which Jordan is participating, was also discussed. Its usefulness is highlighted by the fact that development agencies from various countries support projects in the Jordanian highlands and are confronted with similar problems, so that the network should be used to coordinate and synthesize actions and possible solutions on the national and regional level, Dr. Furtick explained.

Taking part in the workshop were delegates from eleven Arab and foreign countries, international development organisations and specialised Jordanian institutions.

WAJ connects 98% of Karak homes to main water network

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) connected 98 per cent of the houses in Karak Governorate to the main water network during the year 1985, the director of the WAJ Department in Karak, Mr. Sami Abbasi, has said.

Mr. Abbasi added that the WAJ has carried out a number of projects in Karak and Tafila at a total cost of JD 1.155 million. In Karak itself the authority has constructed two water reservoirs, one in Thallajeh area, with a capacity of 4,500 square metres, and the second in Marj. The WAJ has also installed a total of 52,115 metres of main and internal connections.

The authority also completed a project for the construction and improvement of water networks in

the governorate's villages, and towns at a cost of JD 315,000. Mr. Abbasi said that the authority is currently in charge of supplying water to 13,332 subscribers in Karak Governorate and that it has collected JD 246,878 in fees throughout 1985.

In the southern Jordan Valley, the authority has installed approximately 24,000 metres of main water networks, has improved the existing network and has also supplied five other villages and other residential gatherings with water, Mr. Abbasi said.

In Tafila Governorate, the authority has installed 15,438 metres of pipes to improve the existing water network and has collected JD 73,400 in fees.

The authority also completed a project for the construction and improvement of water networks in

Urguhart urges PLO to accept 242 and 338

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Urguhart cast doubt on the Israeli government's ability to make bold concessions for peace but said that however, "we have to try to put the ball in the Israeli court."

"I believe that (Israeli Prime Minister Shimon) Peres is serious but how bad are the obstacles in his government is something we have to put to the test," he said.

Explaining the U.N. role in promoting the peace process Mr. Urguhart said the world body will remain on the sidelines until it is asked to play a role by the parties involved in the conflict. He also

stressed the importance of the role played by U.N. troops in the Golan Heights and the UNIFIL in southern Lebanon. "If these operations are removed, the situation could seriously deteriorate," he said. He added that the U.N. can also play a role as the framework for negotiations through an international conference.

Mr. Urguhart said Israel should withdraw from all of Lebanon under U.N. Resolution 425. He said the Israeli presence in South Lebanon under the cover of its proxy, the South Lebanon Army, "could become very dangerous" with the build-up of resistance.

Mr. Urguhart warned that "there is always a possibility for a military confrontation in the region."

Mr. Urguhart, 67, is retiring from the U.N. on Feb. 10. He will be replaced by Mr. Marwan Gauding. Mr. Urguhart will be working with the New York based Ford Foundation. His wife and daughter are both journalists.

After his talks in Israel with Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Urguhart, who arrived here from Damascus, intends to visit Lebanon, Cyprus and Egypt.

Arafat due here

(Continued from page 1)

PLO Executive Committee member and spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman described the statements made by Peres as "dilatory manoeuvres" and "playing with words."

Mr. Abdul Rahman was quoted by the Associated Press on Thursday as saying the Israeli premier's statement in London "contained no new elements and only follows the policy of previous Israeli governments in denying the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

In a speech on Wednesday, Peres referred to Israel's "willingness" to grant the Palestinians "self-expression, self-existence and self-respect."

Whitehead ends mission with little to show

(Continued from page 1)

Asked what the Arab League would do if sanctions started to bite in Libya, he said: "Arab solidarity will operate to the full for any one of our members threatened by unjust measures."

U.S. show of force

Meanwhile, two U.S. aircraft carriers steamed southwards Fri-

day toward Libya with their jet fighters prepared to demonstrate American resolve to operate in the area.

The U.S. navy confirmed on Thursday that it had notified civilian air-traffic control officials in Tripoli that "carrier flight operations" would be conducted periodically off the coast in "international air space" through Jan. 31.

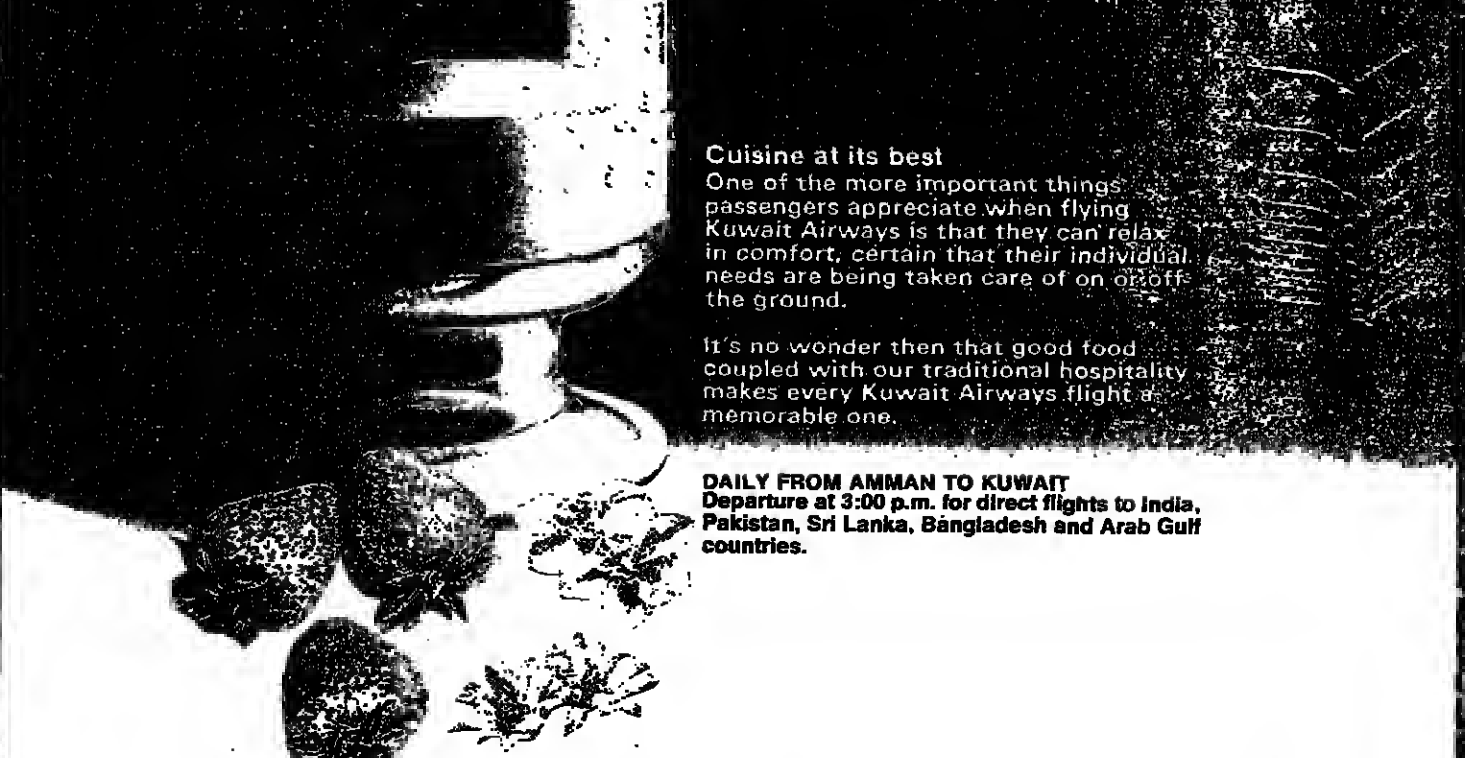
White House officials denied

the United States was trying to provoke a military confrontation with Libya.

The carriers Saratoga and Coral Sea were steaming southwards through the central Mediterranean early Friday. U.S. Defence Department sources told the AP the moves in no way presaged plans for a retaliatory strike against Libya for last month's attacks in Rome and Vienna.

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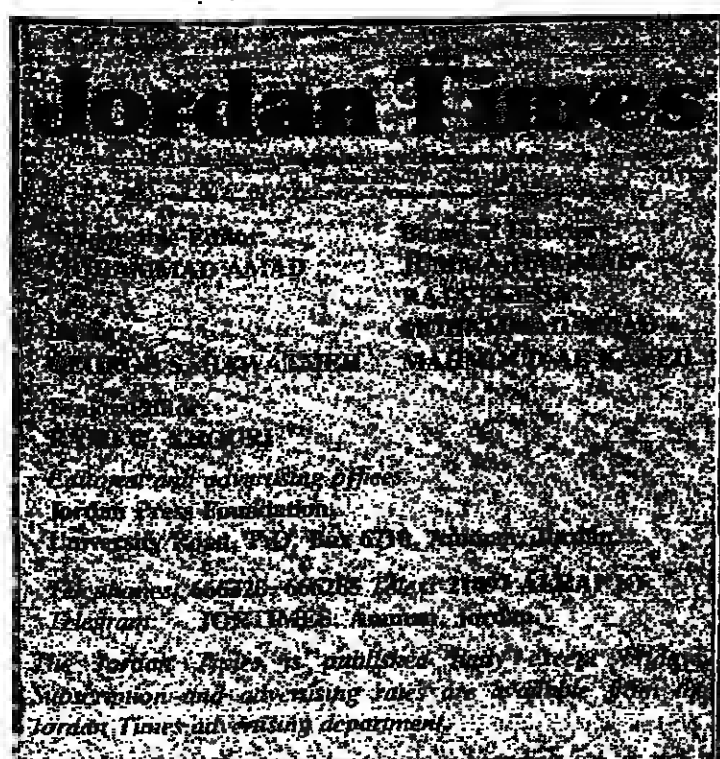
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Israeli fantasy

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shimon Peres, now on a tour of European nations has called for Arab-Israeli summit meetings to precede the convening of an international conference in order "to psychologically prepare for that conference and pave the ground for a successful parley." This call constitutes a pre-condition for such conference and Arab-Israeli negotiations, and they can not help the peace process in any way. The new call is reminiscent of Israeli statements made prior to President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem when Tel Aviv said that summit talks between the Egyptians and the Israelis would lead to peace. But neither the visit nor the partial treaty which followed that visit through the Camp David agreement was able to achieve peace in the region. All Israeli attempts have failed simply because they have continued to follow an aggressive policy towards the Arabs in general and the occupied Arab lands in particular. The recent violations of holy places in Jerusalem stand out as a witness to Israel's evil intentions that can by no means remove the psychological barrier between the Arabs and the Israelis, but in fact would aggravate the situation. The Israelis realise that the Arabs want to have peace through an international conference and if their leaders are genuine in their calls and intentions, let them accept such proposal.

Al Dustour: More condemnations

WE do not belittle the resolutions passed by the Jerusalem Committee in its meeting in Marakesh, but we would have liked to see the committee adopting a practical step towards dealing with continued Israeli violations of holy places in Jerusalem and Hebron. What the committee adopted should be considered as a minimum step, provided it is backed fully by the Arabs and Muslims around the world. It should be pointed out, however, that the Israelis would have committed further crimes in the holy places if they had known that the local Arabs and Muslims are not backed by their brothers around the world. The Israelis should realise that the local inhabitants are not alone in the struggle against inhuman practices and violations of holy places, and they should know that these inhabitants are backed and assisted by their brothers in Arab and Islamic countries. Any Arab-Islamic solidarity in the face of the Israeli onslaught and any support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their rights and lands can give impetus to the Arab endeavours. Any help from the Christian communities in the Arab World and abroad would also serve as a deterrent against the Zionist criminal actions.

Sawt Al Shaab: Facing Israeli aggressions

THE Jerusalem Committee concluded meetings in Marakesh on Thursday and issued a declaration supporting the Arab people under Israeli occupation in their struggle to protect their holy places from Israeli aggression. The declaration also appealed to world nations to assist in the endeavour for safeguarding holy shrines and end Israeli aggression. The declaration which drew the attention of the Arab and Islamic worlds to the danger inherent in Israel's actions, places on the Muslims a special responsibility for defending their holy places. These Muslims should now forego their differences, pool their resources and consolidate their ranks if they want to protect their holy places. Raising the issue of Jerusalem at the United Nations Security Council could help the Arabs and Muslims to expose Israel's actions, but it is only our responsibility to make the change in the situation through our joint ranks and through our serious efforts.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Israel vs. Egypt

ISRAEL is trying to exercise blackmail on Egypt by saying that the Tabu issue would not be referred to international arbitration unless Egypt agrees to hand it a report about investigations in the killing of the seven Israeli soldiers in Sinai. The demanding of such a report is in itself a violation of Egypt's sovereignty and a means of restricting its will and also an interference in the Egyptian people's internal affairs. Of course Egypt should maintain its demand for the return of Tabu to its sovereignty and must not abandon an iota of that territory or that right. But at the same time, Cairo should not sacrifice its own national pride and its sovereignty and independence and dignity for the return of Tabu through succumbing to Israeli demands. Egypt ought to fight hard to get what belongs to it while keeping its head high. Egypt should adopt an extremely tough and stringent stand in confrontation with the Israeli enemy. Cairo should take into consideration Israel's continued occupation of Tabu and continued acts of sacrilege of holy places in Jerusalem and take proper measures to deter Israel's blackmail against its people and its rights. Israel's evil intentions against the Arabs in general and Egypt in particular are so obvious to all. Any firm and solid attitude on the part of Cairo now will defeat Israel's purpose and preserve Egypt's rights and interests.

Sawt Al Shaab: The American seal

THE city of Jerusalem and its holy places have a special status in the hearts of millions of Muslim people around the world and therefore any violations of the sanctity of these shrines constitute a defiance to the feelings of Muslim people. The city is also a holy place for Christians which makes the whole world involved in the issue and calls on the international community to take effective measures and preserve the holy places from sacrilege. The United Nations Security Council and the Jerusalem Committee which have been holding meetings to study Israel's violations of these holy places constitute a means of exposing Israeli practices and inhuman actions. At the Security Council the Americans are expected to come to the help of their allies and prevent the endorsement of a resolution that would condemn Israel's actions. That would constitute an encouragement to the Zionists to pursue their illegal actions and continue their defiance of Muslims' faith. The only reply to such behaviour lies with the Arabs and Muslims themselves who should build up their force with which they can regain their rights.

By Mark Ziemann

HOUSTON — For six years, solar physicist Robert McQueen plotted information on the sun's flare-ups that was beamed to earth daily from the U.S. Navy's Solwind satellite. But in September, the beeping stopped forever. A test missile fired from a U.S. F-15 fighter pulverised Solwind intentionally in a demonstration of Air Force anti-satellite technology. The government said that the satellite had already been "defunct," but as far as the scientist in concerned, the test prematurely ended a project that might have helped explain how solar storms and sunspots influence everything from weather to communications.

"We were incredulous," recalls Mr. McQueen, the director of a national observatory in Boulder, Colo. "I thought it was a deplorable decision on the part of the Department of Defense." Scientists didn't even know about the decision until they read about it in the newspapers less than a week before Solwind was knocked out.

Shuttle's biggest user

Such events make it plain that military men, not men of science, are increasingly calling the shots in the U.S. space programme. The Pentagon, for example, is the largest single user of the space shuttle. Fully 34 per cent of shuttle payloads through 1994 will be military, with many of the missions scheduled to deliver and test hardware for the Strategic Defence Initiative. President Reagan's so-called Star Wars plan of defence against nuclear missiles.

Under the president's National Space Policy, the first objective of the shuttle programme is to "strengthen the security of the United States." Thus, the policy gives the Defence Department first right to shuttle launches.

Military officials say that nothing short of national survival is at stake in space, and it seems clear that the Soviet Union believes that, too. The Soviets put up 98 spacecraft in 1985 — an average of one every four days — to the U.S.'s 17, and military researchers report that American and British military satellites have been zapped while flying over a laser lab in the Soviet Union.

Comet probe dropped

Whether or not the increasing militarisation of the U.S. and Soviet space programme leads to militarisation of space itself, the tendency in that direction is having repercussions. In the U.S., civilian scientists have seen some of their programme shunted aside — as just one consequence, Halley's comet isn't getting the close-up inspection by a U.S. space probe that scientists had long dreamed of

— and a clash of military and civilian cultures has cast doubt on everything from international cooperation in space to the quality of astronaut training.

Some critics even question whether the nation has abandoned its quest for the peaceful colonisation of space. "We seem to be pursuing two very contradictory policies here," says John Eike, a space expert with the Federation of American Scientists. "We are spending more and more time shooting them down."

George Robinson, a former space-agency lawyer, wonders: "What kind of people are we putting up there and what values are we sending with them?" Seventy of America's 102 astronauts — and all shuttle pilots — are military-trained. At the U.S. Air Force Academy, enrollment in rocket-ship courses has tripled in three years, with future astronauts and space engineers now accounting for 12 per cent of the graduating class.

Secrecy at NASA

At the centre of the U.S. space debate is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, agency once held out as a model for government integrity and openness. Twice in the last two years, NASA employees have had to observe complete silence during military shuttle flights; in September, some resorted to a betting pool over the launch time to keep their interest in one secret mission alive.

Obviously secrecy is often necessary in military matters, but that doesn't make it any easier to handle if you're used to being candid. Says John McLeish, a 16-year NASA veteran who retired as director of the public-information office at Johnson Space Centre, Houston at the advent of mission blackouts: "I was delighted to be a part of the old days and delighted I don't have to deal with the secrecy."

Although no serious accidents have resulted from the military-civilian culture clash, some NASA employees and contractors complain that the new passion for security is interfering with mission training and operations. A payload-hooster engineers, for instance, says that flight-instruction manual must be "idiot-proofed" because turnover among military mission-control workers occurs as much as five times faster than among their civilian counterparts.

Former astronaut Joseph Allen recalls being denied access by Air Force officers to briefing books and a simulator room at Johnson Space Centre, where he was scheduled to practise the delicate manoeuvres involved in deploying a civilian satellite. "Sometimes those facilities are closed and there's no way you can get them

open," he says. "It complicates the life of everyone working there today."

During a May shuttle mission, complaints Taylor Wang, a physicist who was aboard the spacecraft, an inflexible series of military-style procedures added about 40 valuable hours to the time required for repairing a device measuring the effects of weightlessness on fluids. "Military people have been conditioned; they are trained to follow orders," Mr. Wang says. "I have been trained to explore always, to try new

developed a rocket for blowing enemy satellites from the sky in 1959, and the Soviets have had a "killer" satellite since 1971. Both superpowers are said to routinely bounce low-power laser beams off the lenses of enemy spy satellites to judge their camera's range.

"The truth of the matter is the military's been in space a long time," notes Lt. Gen. Forrest S. McCartney, the commander of the Air Force Space Division.

But the distinction between the military and civilian space programme appears more and more



Reply by military

Military officials respond that such tiffs are to be expected. "I'm sure there are a few trying moments as there are in any relationships," says Capt. Mary Hauser, an Air Force spokesman at Mission Control. Because of the military's increasing role in shuttle operations and a heavy launch schedule, turnover adjustments and training mixups are regrettable but unavoidable, he says. "Because of that tight schedule, I'm not sure that anybody could point a finger and say it's the military's fault."

Although President Reagan's "Star Wars" may have brought the issue to public attention, greater militarisation of the space effort hasn't occurred overnight. An Air Force captain, Chuck Yeager, barrel-rolled his way past the sound barrier for NASA's predecessor in 1947. The U.S.

it to do, or our quietness will be deafening," recalls Maxime Faget, the shuttle crafts designer. A wing-design change gave the vehicle an additional landing range of 1,200 miles — a costly military requirement that the Air Force hasn't yet used. "I don't think it was anything more complicated than that they wanted a sportier-looking vehicle," Mr. Faget says. "It was NASA's money, why not spend it?"

Air Force officials protest such perceptions. They note that the Pentagon is spending billions of dollars on projects that may also benefit NASA, including a new shuttle launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and a booster rocket that can lift both military and civilian shuttle payloads into a higher orbit. "I'm sure that in the long run it works out for us," says a spokesman for the Air Force Space Division.

Still, many NASA employees grumble that bestowing largess on the military is one reason that purely scientific space programmes are getting less attention. There is only so much space money to go around. Partly as a result of shuttle delays and cost overruns caused by some military demands, the budget for planetary exploration and other unmanned space projects has been tightened. Besides killing the idea for a Halley's comet probe, budget restrictions also did in an international effort to monitor the sun's poles.

Scientists like Allan Klumpp, a navigation engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., rebelled at efforts by the laboratory to increase military research to make up for lost civilian work. When asked to help develop a means of controlling a spacecraft during a nuclear war on earth, "I went to one meeting and said that I absolutely wasn't going to participate in that any further," Mr. Klumpp says.

In November 1984, the military bumped a showcase Spacelab mission off a shuttle flight after a glitch occurred in its own orbit. The science payload finally went up last April, but the five-month delay forced scientists at NASA's Ames Research Laboratory at Moffett Field, Calif., to spend about \$200,000 extra for the flight. "We're not fat cats," says chief project manager Paul Callahan. "We'd love to have that money for other purposes."

Cooperation debated

Some scientists grumble that chaos over canceled and delayed scientific projects at NASA helped spur creation of the rival European Space Agency. More cancellations and delays may arise as military payloads increase, and that prospect worries longtime friends of NASA among scientists in Canada and Western Europe. As a result, they are debating their participation in the U.S.'s planned

space station. They fear that Star Wars projects may overlook shuttles just when scientists plan to use them.

"If we don't have the opportunity to use that technology that we helped develop," says J.C. Leeming, the director of Britain's space agency, "it will look to us like a deal that we shouldn't have gotten into."

Nobody disputes the military's lock on one field of high technology: security. After shelling out \$70 million to tighten security at the Johnson and Kennedy space centres, the Pentagon is spending \$1.2 billion on an isolated, new military mission-control centre at Falcon Air Force Station in Colorado Springs, to be guarded by elite soldiers with M-16s, double-perimeter barbed-wire fences and a retina-scanning device.

"We aren't trying to make this the centre of some public enterprise," explains Col. Larry Griffin, the head of the Air Force Second Space Wing. The Air Force is spending an additional \$2.7 billion to complete its Vandenberg launch site in California, where, during a recent media tour, Air Force officials checked the angle of television-station video cameras before any filming to make certain that nothing in the background was classified.

But even military personnel have had trouble adapting to the space programmes higher security level. Retired Air Force Col. John Young, NASA's chief astronaut, was admonished by space officials for photographing a sensitive Soviet spaceport during a Spacelab mission and then displaying the photos at a New Orleans engineering conference.

Space contractors also find the adjustment jarring. "We spent 20 years telling everybody, 'Make sure that the world knows what you're doing.' We took a full year turning that attitude around," says Riley McCafferty, a Singer Co. official who has been in charge of NASA's training simulators since the 1950s. Martin Marietta Corp.'s Aerospace Division, which makes the shuttle's fuel tanks, can't begin to fill its special shuttle newsletter for workers when a military mission is under way. "We just run the picture real big," says a company spokesman.

During lunch recently in a Mexican restaurant near Johnson Space Centre, a discussion of routine security-clearance information between some space contractors and an outsider was suddenly interrupted by an outraged NASA employee seated at the next table. "I think that's something you better quit talking about right now," he barked before leaving the restaurant.

Lamented one of the embarrassed contractors: "That's very much a reflection of what's going on." — Wall Street Journal.

U.S. industrialists oppose S. Africa disinvestment

By Richard Walker
Reuter

DETROIT — General Motors chairman Roger Smith says the government in South Africa seems to be willing to move away from apartheid but has been plagued by "bad luck" in its timing.

Smith, chief of the world's largest manufacturing corporation, is co-chairman of a new corporate lobby called the U.S. Corporate Council on South Africa urging an end to South Africa's system of racial discrimination.

He told Reuters in a recent interview GM would maintain its business in South Africa because disinvestment would constitute an "abandonment" of 5,000 workers and 350 dealers.

Asked if he saw any positive reaction from the government of President P.W. Botha to the council's lobbying for change, Smith replied: "Not right now I haven't."

But he sighed and added: "They seem to try to want to do the right thing but they seem to have an awful lot of bad luck on their timing, and they seem to be having trouble just to get done what they want to do. So that's where we're trying to see if maybe we can help."

Smith and ex-treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal, chairman of the Detroit-based Burroughs Corp computer manufacturer, another major U.S. investor in South Africa, formed the U.S. Corporate Council on South Africa a few months ago.

The GM head said the council had recruited almost 100 chief executives of firms which do business in South Africa to support businessmen in the racially-troubled country who are pressing Pretoria for sweeping changes.

Many observers took the formation of the council as a reaction to the swift growth of the U.S. anti-apartheid movement since late 1984. The movement has stepped up pressure on companies which do business in South Africa and targeted shell oil this month for a consumer boycott.

Anti-apartheid activists calling for withdrawal of investment in South Africa have accused GM, Ford, Burroughs, IBM and Mobil of being mainstays for the nation's economy, providing vital support for Pretoria's security forces.

However, Smith said his group was motivated to jump into the fray because of concern over the wave of unrest and violence which has swept black townships and other parts of South Africa. Major corporate leaders in South Africa have made unprecedented calls for black rights.

Smith said there had been a "groundswell" of support among American corporate executives who joined the lobby to help work for "peaceful change" in South Africa.

"I'm not quite sure what the basis for our optimism is when you pick up the papers, but I honestly think we can be a positive force down there... businessmen are optimistic by their nature or they wouldn't be in business," he said.

The outcome of the struggle between the white government and its black opponents is "very important to us because we want everybody to be winners."

"The worst thing that I always say can happen is you get rid of apartheid and everybody starves to death because they've got such a deep depression," Smith said.

The U.S. corporate chiefs are sorting out their options on how to support change in South Africa, including what could be done about apartheid and "what can't be done."

But Smith ruled out "going down there (to) throw stones at Pretoria."

"We want to work within the system on a nonconfrontational basis to be as helpful as we can," Smith also said he expected no quick resolution in the conflict between Pretoria and its black majority.

"One reason on that is... the black people in South Africa are so divided themselves that it's going to take a monumental amount of effort to reach agreement."

Portuguese to elect first civilian president for 60 years

By Clare Lovell
Reuter

LISBON — Portugal votes this month for its first civilian president in 60 years after a four-cornered battle based as much on personalities, television ratings and historical feuds as political loyalty.

Politicians of all leanings have hailed the all-civilian poll as a triumph for the country's new democracy and a sign of its final acceptance of West European-style government.

In the third presidential poll since the 1974 military overthrow of half a century of dictatorship, three candidates broadly on the left of Portugal's blurred political spectrum and one from the right are competing for a five-year term.

But while the previous elections were runaway victories for popular president General Antonio Ramalho Eanes, who must step down after two terms, this time the race is wide open. Normally confident political commentators are unable to make up their minds and opinion polls vary dramatically.

As the single rightist candidate, former Christian Democrat leader Diogo Freitas do Amaral is in a good position at least to survive the first round on January 26. If no candidate polls more than half the vote on that date, the two with the most votes have a play-off second round three weeks later.

A smooth-talking law professor and former defence minister, Freitas do Amaral, 44, has the official support of the minority government and is backed by the business sector.

Freitas do Amaral's slogan is "Forward Portugal" and he has campaigned on a ticket of national pride and optimism.

"Only nations that have a past and take a pride in their past have any future," he told a recent rally in the northern city of Guimaraes.

He said Portugal's problems were "lack of leadership and organisation" and promised he would show both qualities.

Freitas do Amaral is feared, and mistrusted by the Portuguese left, who represent the majority of voters and who say his ideas hark

back to the days of authoritarian rule. Former Socialist prime minister Mario Soares, Portugal's best-known and most resilient post-revolution politician, has said the danger of Freitas do Amaral is that he "is supported by the underclass as well as the democratic right."

The jovial 61-year-old Soares, who led an anti-Communist crusade in the tumultuous months following the revolution, believes his candidacy can capture Portugal's middle ground.

An ebullient natural orator, Soares packed his campaign's opening rally in Lisbon with 10,000 roaring flag-waving supporters.

He stresses his contribution to the development of West Europe's poorest country as the man who applied to join the European Community in 1977 and the one who, at the head of another government last year, signed the accession papers.

"I am a natural president. I have experience and competence," he told Reuters in an interview. "I know how to avoid the successive crises the country has suffered."

Portugal has had 16 governments since the revolution, and since Eanes was elected in 1976 the presidency has been the state's single consistent and stable factor.

A constitutional revision three years ago reduced the president's powers but he or she still retains the authority to dismiss the government "if this becomes necessary to ensure the normal functioning of the democratic institutions."

Both Soares, a confirmed parliamentarian, and his dissident Socialist rival candidate Francisco Salgado Zenha have said they do not believe in presidential interference in government.

Zenha, a co-founder of the Socialist Party, broke with Soares over policy and ideology in 1980 and now takes a more radical line. The two old friends and com-

rades in resistance to the dictatorship are now daggers drawn in the presidential fight.

Though a less-known politician, Zenha has been boosted by declarations of support from Eanes and his followers and from the powerful Communist Party which commands between 16 and 20 per cent of the vote in national elections.

The Moscow-aligned party, bitterly opposed to Soares because of his anti-Communist stance, has presented a stooge candidate who will retire before the vote but who can use his allotted television and radio time to campaign for Zenha.

The party's support has prompted the right-wing to suggest that Zenha would be under Communist pressure to power.

But the 62-year-old lawyer maintains he opposes any Communist participation in government and has campaigned on a platform of freedom of information, open administration and an assault on corruption.

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Toivonen outlasts Salonen to win Monte Carlo rally

MONTE CARLO (R) — Henri Toivonen gave the new Lancia Delta S4 its second successive rally win Friday by holding off fellow-Finn Timo Salonen in the 54th Monte Carlo Rally, first event of the 1986 World Championship.

Toivonen finished the demanding 4,000-km race four minutes and four seconds ahead of Salonen's Peugeot, and seven minutes and 22 seconds ahead of compatriot Hannu Mikkola in an Audi.

He clinched his second victory in a row after the RAC Rally in Britain last November, despite starting the last stage of the week-long rally only 37 seconds ahead of Salonen.

Pushing the Lancia to its limits over snow and ice-bound moun-

tain roads behind this Mediterranean principality, Toivonen widened the gap when Salonen lost more than two minutes during a 22-km time trial.

Salonen appeared to have no technical problems but eye-witnesses said he seemed exhausted after battling for the lead during the last few days and may have run out of energy.

For the winner, still suffering the effects of a crash earlier in the event, the victory came exactly 20 years after his father Pauli won the

same event for Citroen.

The Delta S4's other top driver, Italian Massimo Biondi, had been lying third before dropping out Thursday night after his car skidded on recently-replaced tyres, causing severe damage to the front of the vehicle.

That allowed twice world champion West German Walter Rohrl to take fourth place time minutes 35 seconds behind the leader, giving the Audi Quattro team a strong showing.

Peugeot also took fifth and sixth positions, with Finn Juha Karunku and Frenchman Bruno Saby respectively at the wheel.

Renault and Volkswagen both made the top 10 standings but the two Citroens and two untried Austin Metros were forced out with engine troubles.

Legend grows around Bears QB

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, whose behaviour can make John McEnroe look downright angelic, was the centre of a controversy Thursday over derogatory comments he allegedly made about New Orleans, the site of Sunday's Super Bowl football game.

A local television station Wednesday night reported that the outspoken Bears star had described New Orleans' women as "sluts" and its men as "stupid" during a radio interview in a French Quarter restaurant.

The report sparked outrage in New Orleans, a picturesque and cosmopolitan city which prides itself on the beauty of its women and the old-world charm and civility that characterises many, if not all of its men.

Obviously angry over the report and its possible repercussions, McMahon, the catalyst of the Bears' offence, denied making the comments or even having been interviewed by the Chicago radio station in the restaurant.

"The interview was supposed to have taken place at 6 o'clock yesterday morning when Jim was fast asleep," Zucker said. "He's upset and embarrassed by the report and we're insisting on a retraction."

The television station retracted its report later on Thursday and apologised to McMahon over the incident.

As the Bears' acknowledged leader and resident non-conformist, McMahon has emerged in the last month or so as a new American sports folk hero. In the process, he has figured in a number of controversies.

The most recent was his insistence that a Japanese acupuncturist fly here from Chicago to treat his ailing left buttock. The team's president had refused to permit the acupuncturist to board the Bears' charter flight on Monday.

Between the time the acupuncturist, Hiroshi Shiraishi, arrived here Wednesday, and the latest controversy, McMahon was photographed at a Bears practice session "moonin'" (baring his buttocks at) a passing helicopter. The photograph, which appeared in hundreds of U.S. newspapers Thursday, just added to the McMahon legend.

The incorrigible McMahon's zany behaviour has made him the media darling in the hoopla preceding Sunday's game between the Bears and the New England Patriots. He may not be the best player in the game, but he has

become the star of the show.

Two weeks ago, National Football League (NFL) Commissioner Pete Rozelle fined McMahon \$5,000 for wearing a beaded necklace emblazoned with the name of a sporting goods firm (Addidas) during a playoff game against the New York Giants. During that same game, when a television camera zoomed in on McMahon near the bench, he did not wave to the camera as most players do. He stuck out his tongue.

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So angry with the idea that he will have to use a different javelin this year — at the decree of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for track and field — that he doesn't plan to try the new implement for at least the next two months.

Petrannoff, who set the U.S. mark in 1983 with a heave of 99.72 metres — the world record is 104.8 metres by East Germany's Uwe Hohn in 1984 — has a new javelin at his home in Nor-

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Soviets seem to accept Seoul Olympics

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet member of the International Olympic Committee indicated Thursday the Soviets plan to send a team to South Korea for the 1988 Summer Olympic Games, even though they would have preferred a different venue. Konstantin Andrianov, answering questions from readers in the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya, stopped short of saying outright that a Soviet team would compete.

Lille ends PSG unbeaten run

PARIS (R) — Lowly Lille inflicted a surprise 2-0 defeat on Paris Saint-Germain Wednesday night to bring to an abrupt end the French champions' 26-match unbeaten run this season. Lille, playing in driving rain before an enthusiastic home crowd of 15,000, monopolised play but had to wait until the 74th minute before they scored with a fierce header by Bernard Bruneau. Six minutes later Bruneau again broke away and drove home his second goal. The defeat was PSG's first of the season, ending an unprecedented stretch in French soccer history.

U.S. volleyball star dies on court

TOKYO (AP) — American Flo Hyman, a member of the United States' silver medal-winning women's volleyball team at the 1984 Olympics and a standout player in the Japan volleyball league since 1982, collapsed during a game Friday and died, Japanese news reports said. Miss Hyman, 31, collapsed in the third set of a match in Matsue, 610 kilometres west of Tokyo, and was rushed to a nearby hospital but died from heart failure, according to the Japan Broadcasting Corp. and the Kyodo News Service.

Kasparov and Karpov postpone rematch

MOSCOW (R) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov and fellow Soviet rival Anatoly Karpov have agreed to postpone their scheduled return title match, due next month, until August, Soviet chess sources said Thursday. A spokesman for the Soviet Chess Federation said the issue was discussed at a meeting of the body earlier this week. He declined to say what decision was reached, but said an announcement would be made later.

New javelin to 'take the beauty out of the event'

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Petrannoff, the American record-holder in the men's javelin, is angry.

So angry with the idea that he will have to use a different javelin this year — at the decree of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for track and field — that he doesn't plan to try the new implement for at least the next two months.

Petrannoff, who set the U.S. mark in 1983 with a heave of 99.72 metres — the world record is 104.8 metres by East Germany's Uwe Hohn in 1984 — has a new javelin at his home in Nor-

thridge, California. "But I'm not going to touch it until April 1," he said.

"The United States and East Germany are very opposed to the new javelin," Petrannoff said recently. "The only way to stop (the use of) it would be to boycott it."

The IAAF ordered the adoption of the new javelin after the long throws by Hohn and Petrannoff had given the organisation cause for concern that a thrower might hurl the implement beyond the field limitations of a stadium and into the crowd.

"It's only because of me and Uwe that they have changed it," Petrannoff claimed.

"The new javelin is a very forgiving javelin," he said. "The weight is now more toward the back. With it, you will have to create a lower power line. Now, it will be a matter of brute strength instead of technical expertise."

With shorter javelin throws, overall point scoring in the decathlon will decrease, leaving unreachably the world best of 8,846 points by Britain's Daley Thompson — just like Hohn's mark will be unattainable in the javelin.

"The javelin is going to be a severely retarded event," Pete Cava, director of media relations for the Athletics Congress, the national U.S. governing body for the sport, said. "Hohn will have the world record, and no one will be able to touch it."

That's what upsets Petrannoff. "After many years of development and training, I now will

Morocco to challenge the odds

By Charles Lambelin
Routier

RABAT — Morocco, preparing for their second appearance in the World Cup soccer finals, feel the odds will be against them in European-dominated Group F in Mexico in June.

But, taking comfort from the relatively low altitude and hot and dusty climate of Monterrey and their own impressive recent form, they hope to spring a surprise and secure a place in the last 16 by finishing in third place in the group.

Morocco, drawn to meet Poland, England and Portugal in Group F, have already qualified for the African Nations Cup finals in Cairo in March and the club side from which the team has built its spine, the Royal Armed Forces, has been crowned African Champions.

Such encouraging soccer credentials are backed by the belief that their venue — the lowest in altitude of all the centres and also the hottest — will be more suitable to the North Africans than to their European opponents.

Furthermore, it will be Morocco's second World Cup in Mexico, where in 1970, as Africa's sole representatives in the finals, they lost 2-1 to West Germany, 3-0 to Peru and drew 1-1 with Bulgaria.

This time, as one of Africa's two representatives in Mexico, they will travel with impressive credentials and the ambition to finish ahead of Portugal in third place.

Moroccan sports officials feel their grouping with 1974, 1978 and 1982 semifinalists Poland,

1966 winners England and 1966 semifinalists Portugal is a difficult, but not impossible proposition.

Like fellow-qualifiers Algeria, Morocco rely on an experienced home-based team strengthened by a few professionals playing in Europe.

They play a Latin-style game full of brilliant improvisation in which the drawback is that the players are sometimes tempted to sacrifice efficiency for virtuosity to entertain the crowd.

The "Red and Greens" are coached by Brazilian Jose Faria, 52, who was previously with Fulham of Rio De Janeiro and Qatar.

Morocco's star player is Mohammed "Cannonball" Timouni, the dark-skinned son of a royal palace guard, who was voted Africa's best player of 1985.

He is expected to make an impact in Mexico if he recovers from a broken ankle he suffered last November. It is hoped he will be back in action in March.

Timouni combines the brains of a master tactician with a gift for anticipation, devastating passing, clever individual skills and powerful shooting.

During Africa Cup games before his injury, he scored direct from a free kick near the corner flag and, on another occasion, dribbled 40 metres down the touchline, left two defenders standing, and slammed the ball home from an seemingly impossible angle.

The team's other outstanding players include veteran goalkeeper Badou Zaki, defender Biaz and midfielder Dolmy.

The leading expatriates are Mustapha Haddadoui and Aziz Bouderbala, who play for Swiss

clubs Sion and Lausanne respectively, and Kriman Merry, who plays for Le Havre and is one of the top scorers in the French first division.

Faria, who has been converted to Islam, has made detailed training plans for the squad before they leave for Mexico on May 4 and their opening match against Poland on June 2.

He has assembled a pool of 44 players at a sports institute near Rabat which has some of the best facilities in Africa. A series of friendly internationals against teams with styles similar to their opponents in Mexico have also been arranged.

They will meet Spain, whose style is considered similar to Portugal's, later this month. Romania or Bulgaria, believed to be similar to Poland, in February, and Northern Ireland, the most similar team in style to England, in April.

On their return from the African Nations Cup finals in Egypt, the Moroccan squad will begin intensive training at the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifrane.

Faria is also concerned that his players eat the food they are used to at home when they reach Mexico and will make sure their diet — couscous and tajines, a stew with fruit — is available.

Such detailed planning is a natural preparation in a sport which remains the most popular in Morocco even though Olympic champions Said Aouita and Nawal El Moutawakel have lifted athletics in the popular imagination.

The Moroccan Football Federation, set up in 1956 when Morocco became independent from France, has more than 20,000 licensed players and there are 20 clubs in the first division.

Rockets are no longer easy pickings — especially at home

NEW YORK (AP) — It takes more than injuries and ejections to keep the Houston Rockets from winning at home.

"When teams come in here now, it starts with the skycaps (porters) at the airport telling them how the Rockets are going to whip them," Robert Reid said after he came off the bench to lead Houston to a 124-107 NBA victory over Sacramento, the Rockets' 22nd victory in 23 home games this season.

Starting forward Rodney McCray played only two minutes because of a bruised leg and Ralph Sampson was ejected in the third period when he was whistled for his second technical foul. The first followed a brief scuffle with the Kings' Otis Thorpe and the second came when Sampson argued an official's call.

The Rockets won 43 games and lost 119 in the two seasons that ended in 1984, but their near-invincibility at home has left them with the league's third-best record overall this season.

"In the old days, teams would say, 'chalk up a victory, we're going to Houston,'" said Reid, who had 23 points on 11-for-17 shooting and 10 rebounds. "Now we say, 'thank you for showing up, the victory will be ours'."

Akeem Olajuwon, who scored 22 points, also avoided disqualification for the Rockets, playing the whole fourth quarter with four fouls.

In other NBA games, it was Washington 114, Phoenix 112; New Jersey 106, Utah 105; and Portland 117, Seattle 107 in double overtime.

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(Colour)
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OPERA

Abdullah bin Ali Office
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SAVE WHAT CAN BE SAVED
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One sterling	1.2940/50	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4105/10	Canadian dollars
	2.425/65	West German marks
	2.7340/55	Dutch guilders
	2.0500/15	Swiss francs
	49.60/65	Belgian francs
	7.4500/50	French francs
	1654/1655	Italian lire
	197.75/85	Japanese yen
	7.5375/5950	Swedish crowns
	7.5350/5425	Norwegian crowns
	8.9275/5350	Danish crowns
	354.75/355.25	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold		

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed in moderate volume with late buying for the new account noted, dealers said. At 1530 Friday the FTSE 100 index was 4.7 up at 1387.5.

Government bonds steadied to around 1/2 point higher with sterling 10-year bonds at 8.74 and 10-year at 8.74. Hawker Siddeley added 10p to 447. In higher oil B.P. added 13p to 573 and Shell gained 10p to 673 reflecting firmer crude oil prices, dealers added.

Banks were higher while insurances and golds were mixed. Westland was actively traded, dealers said, and closed 18p higher at 141. Businessman Alan Bristow said he was increased his stake in the company to almost 17 per cent after the purchase of 1.45 million shares at an undisclosed price.

FT Group ended 22p up at 405 on bid speculation, dealers said. Vails Breweries closed 4p higher at 370 after 388 following denied bid rumours. Bechtel finished 10p up at 376 on continued bid speculation. Reuters added 13p to 393 on U.S. buying, dealers added.

In higher stores Boots rose 9p to 234.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope
from the Carroll-Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 25, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This morning finds you feeling frustrated in gaining the various activities you would like to make work in your behalf, but then the afternoon brings a considerable amount of upsets.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Don't permit conditions at home to upset you in the morning, but tonight causes changes in recreational activities.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): Unless you are careful, friends may not turn out right as you expected them to. Be sure to drive with particular care.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You may feel lack in the morning so plan a wiser budget and stop entertaining so much and soon you will build a next egg.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Forget personal wishes since the aspects are not favorable right now. Plan your own and revitalize your energies.

JULY 22 to August 21: First handle important home duties, and then take health and beauty treatments you need. Take no risks with your friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): You may not gain some personal wish early in the day, and later don't try to put your talents across to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Some worldly matter can bring criticism in the morning if you are not careful and in the evening the same is true in personal matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Get rid of that temptation to get out to new outlets in the morning, and get your home affairs in order.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be sure you keep a promise you have made even if annoying and tonight enjoy your home. Be happy at home with your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Don't argue with an associate who has prejudices in the morning. You can deal with this person later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Be kind with an overly sensitive fellow worker in the morning, who is still a tenderfoot. Avoid the public in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): A friend cannot join you in some pleasure so forget about it and amuse yourself alone. Buy a nice gift for your mate.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will love to solve problems that are difficult for others to do so be sure to send to right schools where this fine talent can be perfected. Much success is possible in the right profession. One who is family oriented, although seems to take this in a casual manner.

THE Daily Crossword by Mitzl Olin

ACROSS

1. Precipitation

2. Old plane

3. A Gable

4. Paraphrase

5. Noted well

6. City

7. British

8. Food wine

9. TV's Aubrey

10. Joseph

11. Sleep

12. Bakery product

13. Fly high

14. Musical piece

15. Answered

16. Paper and castle

17. To let off

18. Off water

19. Old woman

20. Three in a row

21. Military org.

22. Talking legend

23. Star in Cats

24. Old Fr. coin

25. Charles' cousin

26. Entry

27. Shellfish

28. Bubbly drink

29. A of Ten

30. Cities

31. Weight of

32. In a row

33. Famous ocean

34. Silver

35. More

36. Sweet coal

37. Musical note

38. Sleep

39. Anderson

40. Secretary

41. Blood

42. Star of war

43. Car

44. Musical plant

45. Zebra's name

DOWN

1. Fruit

2. A lot

3. Wild plant

4. Style of medicine

5. College apt.

6. Rose's land

7. Decade

8. School for slaves

9. Antidotes

10. certain

11. Scarlett's

12. Kitchen appliance

13. Space age

14. Pole

15. Pesticide

16. leg all

Yamani sparks shivers in world markets

VIENNA (Agencies) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said oil prices could fall below \$15 a barrel unless all Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC states cooperated on output.

He told the OPEC News Agency OPECNA Thursday that an agreement by all producers, both inside and outside OPEC, was needed, including "above all the United Kingdom which has been steadily increasing production."

Unless there was such an accord, "there will be no limitation to the downward price spiral which may bring crude prices to less than \$15 per barrel with adverse and dangerous consequences for the whole world economy," he said.

World prices have crashed by one-third in the last two months and North Sea grades breached the \$20 barrier on spot markets last week for the first time in six years.

Sheikh Yamani also emphasized OPEC's readiness to observe discipline once a global agreement was reached which assured the organisation a market share of "definitely above 16 million barrels per day (b/d)."

OPEC ministers resolved last December to defend their share of the world market, having seen it fall to one-third of the non-communist world's consumption from two-thirds just five years ago.

The group has an official output ceiling of 16 million b/d ceiling but industry analysts say actual production is about 18.4 million. Saudi output has soared to more than five million b/d from a 20-year low of two million last August.

The analysts say Riyadh's move

about \$18.50 a barrel, more than \$1 less than Wednesday.

Sheikh Yamani also said that once "the political will exists for an overall market share agreement, the modalities and details of such an agreement will be easily reached."

Soviet oil sales to West cease as world prices collapse

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, has virtually halted crude oil exports to Western Europe due to a rift with its customers caused by collapsing world prices, traders said Thursday.

Moscow was supplying crude only to Finland's state oil company Neste, with which it had a special trading relationship, and its Comecon allies, they told Reuters.

A stalemate developed when Western oil companies rejected Moscow's proposals for a new contract price and refused to buy any more oil, saying they could find cargoes from other countries at much lower prices on the European spot market.

The last agreed price for Soviet export blend crude was \$27 for delivery to Western Europe from Jan. 1. But refiners said they would now not consider paying even \$20.

"Last week they asked us for a price and we said \$22.25 CIF Med (delivered to the Mediterranean). Now they offer crude at \$22 and we reply with \$19.50," said a trader at an Italian refining company.

The Soviet Union produces around 10 million barrels a day, double that of OPEC giant Saudi Arabia, and depends on oil exports

for half its foreign exchange earnings.

Long-standing customers said they were content to shop around for North Sea oil on the spot market or for cargoes from Mideast Gulf OPEC members at prices linked to the value of processed products, currently just as depressed as those of crude oil.

"We are living off our fat and waiting for the dust to settle," said another contract customer.

Traders said a mild winter had left Moscow with surplus crude oil and products to sell but it did not want to be seen to be flooding an already glutted market.

Fears mount in L. America

In Latin America, three major oil producers, Mexico, Venezuela and Ecuador, are nervously watching fast-falling world crude prices and wondering whether the plunge will drag their fragile economies down with them.

All three are heavily dependent on oil for the export earnings they need to pay off their huge debts.

Economists say the prospect of oil prices weakening further will put new question marks over the faltering Latin American countries' ability and willingness to keep repaying international banks.

Most vulnerable is Mexico whose liquidity crunch in 1982 — partly caused by falling oil prices — shook the world financial system and primed the Latin American debt time bomb.

"If contract oil prices go down to say \$20 a barrel (from the current level of around \$25 in the United States), they're either going to have to ask for a lot more (in loans), or get tough with the banks," said a senior U.S. banker in Mexico City.

Several bankers and economists in Mexico think getting tough with the banks is just about the only option left for a country which has seen living standards and wages fall relentlessly as most of its earnings go straight out again as interest payments on its \$97 billion debt.

And with Mexico the acknowledged leader of the Latin debtors, the danger of a knock-on effect is obvious.

Economists say the spectre of lower prices for the three Latin producers, while worrying for Ecuador and deeply worrying for Venezuela, is potentially disastrous for Mexico.

With most immediate concerns focused on Mexico, some bankers predict at least a much more radical approach towards debt repayment, if not a default.

Independent economists, diplomats and senior bankers are now almost unanimous that Mexico's economic condition is grave after three years of what they believe has been merely cosmetic belt-tightening.

With its economic targets in tatters and a sharply falling trade balance threatening its ability to make debt repayments, Mexico faces an extremely tough year, they say.

Mexico, the world's fourth-largest oil exporter at around 1.5 million b/d, relies on oil for 75 per cent of its exports. For each \$1 drop in the price of a barrel, the country loses some \$550 million per year.

Significantly, no Mexican ministers have attempted to play down the situation.

This is in sharp contrast to Ecuador and Venezuela, both OPEC members, where officials have

U.N. suffers worst financial bind

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations is experiencing its worst-ever financial crisis and what its secretary general can do to meet the problem is "mere peanuts," the world body's fiscal chief said Thursday.

Mr. Patricia Ruedas, under secretary general for administration and management, said the choice confronting the 159 member states was to find more resources or reduce U.N. activities.

"We are not getting in what the governments are expecting us to spend," he said, reporting a \$225 million shortfall at the end of 1985 on a budget of more than \$800 million.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said he may have to call a special session of the General Assembly to deal with the crisis. His own economies, including cutting staff travel, will save only \$15 million.

Mr. Ruedas blamed a new U.S. budget-balancing law for Washington's failure to meet its U.N. obligations.

If the implications of that law were realised and the United States cut its U.N. contribution heavily over the next few years, the result could be "little short of disastrous" for the world body, Mr. Ruedas said.

He said that Mr. De Cuellar's working capital fund of \$100 million for emergencies was already exhausted and the United Nations now was living "from hand to mouth." It might not be able to meet its payroll.

Noting that 75 per cent of the regular budget goes to staff, Mr. Ruedas, who is from Spain, said that by agreement U.N. salaries are up to 20 per cent higher than those in the U.S. civil service, because most U.N. employees are expatriates.

He said he did not believe the differential was exorbitant.

American critics have disputed U.N. numbers, asserting that the differential may be as high as 40 per cent. A principal officer in the United Nations, four grades below the top salary level, receives a gross salary of about \$96,000, \$20,000 more than the top regular U.S. civil service grade, American officials said.

Mr. Ruedas said that a reduction in U.N. salaries was an option that might have to be considered.

Concerned by the possible effects of the crisis on their benefits,

U.S. asks banks to cut rates

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Reagan administration has pressed commercial banks to cut the rates they charge on loans to heavily indebted countries to help ease the world debt problem, a senior U.S. Treasury official said Thursday.

Assistant Treasury Secretary David Mulford said the suggestion was made in discussions of a U.S. debt strategy unveiled by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker at the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Typically, on loans to debtor countries, banks charge a rate slightly above a key interest rate known as the London Inter Bank Rate (LIBOR). It is this spread, which Mr. Mulford said can contain fees and other costs, that the Reagan administration would like to see cut.

Mr. Mulford, in testimony before a joint economic subcommittee and in remarks to reporters afterwards, said spreads had been reduced in recent negotiations between banks and debtor countries.

"We have asked the banks to reduce spread and eliminate fees and assume expenses," Mr. Mulford said.

Under the Baker debt proposal,

Analysts predict squeeze

The slide in oil prices, with some grades of crude selling at under \$20 a barrel, is likely to hit U.S. banks hard, according to analysts in New York.

Worstaffected will be those institutions — mainly based in Texas and New York — which have made heavy lendings to Mexico, Venezuela, Nigeria and other oil producing countries.

Citicbank, for instance, is estimated to have extended \$4.2 billion to Mexico and Venezuela, equal to more than 50 per cent of the bank's entire worth.

The manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, another big player in international financial markets, has an estimated \$3 billion extended in loans to the two countries, roughly equal to its net worth.

The Bank of America, already reeling from problems in its domestic operations, has committed about \$4.3 billion in loans to the two countries, a figure also said to be around its net worth.

The Chase Manhattan Bank is spread out thin too, with 79 per cent of its net worth extended in loans of \$3 billion to Mexico and Venezuela.

Peanuts



Mutt n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"I'm ticketing you for eating 85 bites per hour in a 20 bites per hour zone."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLER WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIRRO
ENVAH
NUIRKY
RUSTYD

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HIKER VIXEN BUTTON QUARTZ
Answer: Another name for that much talked about baby boom — THE "BIRTHQUAKE"

Death toll in S. African tribal clashes rises to 36

UMBOGENTWENI, South Africa (R) — Police said they found six more bodies Friday after fierce clashes between Zulus and Pondo in the squalid shanty town of Umbogentweni, bringing the death toll from tribal fighting to 36.

A spokesman said police were patrolling the tense squatter camp and searching for more bodies in dense surrounding bush. Thousands of Zulus and Pondos battled with knives, sticks, spears and home-made guns Thursday in a renewal of fighting which broke out at Christmas. The tribal tensions are blamed on pressure for land at the overcrowded camp. Police, asked why they had arrested 480 Pondos but no Zulus, said that when they were caught between the rival sides Thursday they had come under attack from Pondos. By the time police had subdued their attackers, the Zulu warriors

had fled, the spokesman said. In Pretoria, police headquarters said a crowd stabbed a man to death overnight in Soweto, Johannesburg's tense black satellite city. Police arrested a man after the killing and made four arrests in two other troubled townships. Crowds have often attacked blacks seen as collaborators with white dominance during the past two years of unrest. Police said later that a black policeman died in hospital Friday from injuries he received when two grenades were thrown at his home in Mamelodi township, outside Pretoria, Thursday. Eyewitnesses said the Kwa-

makbuta section of Umbogentweni, comprising some 4,000 shacks, was razed to the ground as Zulus made good a threat to forcibly evict the Pondos. In other developments, South Africa's official white opposition party urged the government not to act against Bishop Desmond Tutu for remarks he made during a U.S. tour. The appeal came as police detained two leading officials of the country's main internal anti-apartheid group. In Umbogentweni, the local Zulu chief had given his rivals an ultimatum to leave the area, regarded as a Zulu domain, after Christmas clashes claimed at least 60 lives in one of the worst incidents of its kind in recent South African history. The Pondos have migrated to the area from the eastern Cape province in search of work, and

tension between them and the Zulus has often overflowed into violence. The battle began Thursday morning after about 500 Pondos killed a Zulu, police said. Bishop Tutu said it was time the West supported the goals of the African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla group fighting white dominance. The Pretoria government has condemned his remarks, made at a ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia, marking the birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King. The chairman of the liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP), Alex Boraine, said Tutu's comments might leave him open to charges of aiding a banned organisation. Mr. Boraine urged the government to lift the ban on the ANC rather than act against Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Indian hotel fire claims 37 lives

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The city's chief fire official said Friday the staff of a luxury hotel failed to contact firefighters fast enough or tell them of the seriousness of a fire that killed 37 people and injured 46 others. The Statesman newspaper Friday quoted the same official, S.K. Dheri, as saying, "if they had handled the situation properly and their system had worked, the casualties would not have been so high." The city's Lieutenant Governor, H.L. Kapur, put the death toll at 38 on Thursday, but officials said later that one body had been counted twice. Police say a short circuit or cooking gas leak may have caused the blaze early Thursday at the Siddharth Continental Hotel, located near the New Delhi airport in the upper-class Vasant Vihar suburb. Maxwell Pereira, deputy commissioner of police, told the Associated Press (AP) on Friday that an investigation into the pre-dawn fire indicated the hotel staff had put out "one or two" small

fires in recent months, at least one of which was caused by a short circuit. He said his information came from hotel management, but that he did not have any other details. Mr. Dheri told the AP in a telephone interview Friday that the hotel staff reacted slowly to the fire, and did not tell firefighters how serious it was. "The fire had already engulfed three floors when we arrived, and they said it was a small fire," Mr. Dheri said. "I am doubtful whether the hotel had sprinklers at all. I did not see them throwing water." Efforts to reach hotel management for comment were unsuccessful. The hotel was sealed off by police investigating the fire, and the switchboard was out of service. However, the hotel said in a statement released Thursday that the building was fully equipped with fire-fighting equipment and that the blaze was controlled in two hours.

The Statesman newspaper said the smoke alarm system did not work because the hotel power supply was shut down to prevent the fire from spreading through the electrical system. The hotel's booster pump was unable to generate enough pressure to get water up to the higher floors, the paper said. "To add to our problems, even the swimming pool was dry," the newspaper quoted Mr. Dheri as saying. The hotel architect, S.C. Jain, was quoted Thursday by United News of India as saying some electric generators were deliberately shut down. Police Thursday filed preliminary charges of negligence against hotel management as the first step in beginning a formal investigation. No criminal charges were filed. Many of the hotel's 190 guests said they never heard a fire alarm and groped their way in the dark through blistering heat and dense, acrid smoke.

Lesotho to fly out S. African refugees

MASERU (R) — About 60 South African refugees, most of them supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla group fighting to topple white domination in South Africa, were expected to be flown out of Lesotho to Zambia Friday, authoritative sources told Reuters. They are the first batch of about 140 refugees whom South Africa has demanded be expelled from Lesotho. South Africa, which totally surrounds Lesotho, imposed a crippling blockade on the tiny mountain kingdom at the start of the year to check what it said was the movement of ANC guerrillas into South Africa. Lesotho's new military rulers, who toppled the civilian government of Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan on Monday, have held a series of talks with South Africa aimed at ending the economic clampdown that has caused havoc and led to shortages of essential goods. Friday's airlift follows an appeal from military leader Maj. Gen. Justin Lekhanya to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for help in finding countries prepared to accept the refugees. Zambia is host for the headquarters of the ANC, which has stepped up its campaign of violence in the past month, planting mines near the borders with Zimbabwe and Botswana. In a telexed message sent to the U.N. on Wednesday and made available to Reuters Friday, Gen. Lekhanya said Lesotho had to move the refugees because South Africa had made clear it would not lift the border restrictions until they had left. "The situation is deteriorating to a point where both the safety and security and well-being of Lesotho as a sovereign state are now in jeopardy," he said. Gen. Lekhanya stressed that his government would not send anybody back to South Africa. It wanted them moved to "those countries willing and able to provide them with a safe haven," he said. Authoritative sources said Pretoria had threatened to sack the 140,000 Lesotho citizens employed in South African mines and whose remittances account for most of Lesotho's gross domestic product, if the refugees were not deported. Although it is widely thought there may be as many as 700 refugees in Lesotho, South Africa only listed about 87 it wanted thrown out urgently.

Reagan, Suharto to hold talks

JAKARTA (R) — President Reagan will meet President Suharto of Indonesia at the end of April for talks which officials said would focus on South East Asian regional security and Third World economic problems. Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumatadja told reporters that Mr. Reagan's meeting with Mr. Suharto on the holiday island of Bali would provide the U.S. leader with views from the developing world to take to the summit of industrialised nations in Tokyo in May. Mr. Mochtar said he was also trying to arrange for Mr. Reagan to meet Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which also includes Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia. Officials and diplomats said one of the main security issues on the agenda would be Indonesia's view on Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea. They said the two leaders might also discuss firepower in non-Communist South East Asia in the light of the U.S. decision to sell advanced F16 fighters to Indonesia in addition to Thailand and Singapore. Economic issues would probably include ASEAN's views on possible Tokyo summit topics such as the impact of high interest rates and fluctuating currencies on the economies of developing nations, they said. Officials said the talks might also cover the effect of lower oil prices on Indonesia's cash-strapped and oil-dependent economy, the slump in some world commodity prices and protectionism. They said if Mr. Reagan did meet the ASEAN foreign ministers he could also hear their views on regional security and the state of the world economy. Mr. Reagan cancelled an official trip to the Philippines and Indonesia after the murder of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino in 1983 and, although Mr. Suharto said the move was understandable, local papers and some politicians said it was an embarrassing snub. Mr. Mochtar said the April visit was not a substitute for the official trip and the two-day meeting would be a working visit. Indonesia hoped an official visit could take place some time in the future, he added. One diplomat, who said the visit would probably take place between April 28 to May 1, said: "It's a bridge-building operation. Jakarta's still sensitive and Washington's being extra careful."

Northern India tense after violence over land transfer

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Northern India remained tense under heavy security Friday after five people died and more than 1,000 were wounded in violence over the controversial transfer of a state capital this Sunday. Police in Haryana state Thursday opened fire on unruly crowds blocking roads in protest at the planned transfer of the joint Haryana-Punjab capital of Chandigarh to Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. PTI described troubled areas as tense early Friday. More than 1,850 Hindu and Sikh opposition leaders and extremists have been put under preventive arrest in the past three days and the central government has sent paramilitary reinforcements into trouble spots. The "block-the-road" protests in the Hindu-majority state left five dead and more than 1,000 injured, including many policemen. Shops and offices closed, road and rail traffic stopped and at least six rail wagons were set ablaze. PTI said police, confronted with as many as 10,000 people Thursday, fired tear gas and baton charges before opening fire. Authorities have clamped tight security on northern India. State borders have been sealed and long-distance rail and bus transport halted. Officials fear more trouble in

Sikh-dominated Punjab as a possible reaction to death sentences handed down on Wednesday to three Sikhs charged with involvement in the murder of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1984. Security was also tightened in New Delhi to try to prevent attacks by Sikh extremists during Republic Day festivities on Sunday. Police with submachine guns guarded intersections as horse and camel cavalry units practised manoeuvres for the annual parade up the Rajpath in the centre of New Delhi. About 1,500 Haryana opposition leaders, including the former state chief minister, were rounded up but some would be released from Friday night, PTI said. Earlier this week, about 350 Sikh extremists were arrested in Punjab. The transfer of Chandigarh is a key provision of the Punjab peace accord signed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and leaders of the Sikh Akali Dal Party which now controls the Punjab government. Haryana officials have insisted that 34 villages they say are Hindi-speaking must be transferred to their state in return. Punjab disputes the claim. A high commission is due to give its report Saturday on the results of a special language census taken last week in the disputed villages.

Aquino calls U.S. army reports 'proof of Marcos' deceptions'

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — Opposition presidential candidate Corason Aquino on Friday said U.S. army reports debunking President Ferdinand Marcos' claims to have been a war hero were "proof of his deceptions." "I imagine the Filipino people will now be thoroughly convinced that Mr. Marcos has to go," Mrs. Aquino said in an open forum after a speech to about 1,000 students at a Roman Catholic school for girls. Mrs. Aquino, who is challenging Mr. Marcos in the Feb. 7 election, was asked to comment on U.S. army reports published Thursday by the New York Times, which called Mr. Marcos' claims to have led a guerrilla movement against the Japanese during World War II "fraudulent."

The reports said Mr. Marcos' so-called Maharlika unit had "no definite organisation" and was not controlled adequately "because of the desertion of its commanding officer." The unit also did not maintain adequate records and the U.S. army concluded that "no such unit ever existed" in the Philippines during the war, the reports said. Mr. Marcos, who never fails to tell his war stories in campaign speeches, boasting about getting wounded five times in daring raids on the Japanese and receiving 28 medals for bravery, said in an address at rally Thursday that people who doubt his heroism during the war are "crazy individuals." Mrs. Aquino told the open forum: "As I have always said, Mr. Marcos is so deceptive, he thinks he can deceive the people all the time... but I'm glad that we now have proof of all these deceptions he has been foisting upon us." Mrs. Aquino told an overflow crowd of more than 1,500 people at a meeting of the Manila Rotary Club Thursday that Mr. Marcos was an "inveterate liar," and an "evil genius allowed to run amok" in the Philippines for two decades. In an open forum following her

speech, Mrs. Aquino was asked if she thought the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan was playing a neutral role in the coming Philippine election. "I've always believed that whether America interferes openly or not she would still be interfering," she said. "But I would like to believe America is interfering for good and that she will continue to tell the Marcos administration how very concerned she is for us to have a clean and honest election so that we can have a peaceful transition of government." Earlier, in her speech, she vowed that if she won the Feb. 7 presidential election, she would "dismantle the dictatorial edifice Mr. Marcos has built" and replace it with a "genuine democracy."

She said she would initiate National Assembly bills to repeal decrees allowing Mr. Marcos to jail alleged subversives even without trial and would reformulate the constitution Mr. Marcos promulgated shortly after beginning eight years of martial law in 1972. The constitution, Mrs. Aquino said, allows Mr. Marcos "to sin mightily and with impunity" and assures him immunity from prosecution. Members of the civic group applauded Mrs. Aquino more than 40 times during her 50-minute speech. They cheered and chanted her name as she entered and left the hall. The loudest cheers came when Mrs. Aquino said the "issue of hidden wealth will not be allowed to die," referring to opposition charges that Mr. Marcos, his family and friends have enriched themselves in office and stashed their wealth abroad. Mr. Marcos Friday dismissed as laughable U.S. army charges that he faked a wartime career as a guerrilla hero. Mr. Marcos, in the middle of his campaign for re-election, hit back at politically embarrassing documents released in Washington which said he lied about his exploits.

A Marcos statement read out on government television Friday night said: "I consider it a compliment that they, the opposition and the Western press, find all my exploits which I consider an ordinary part of my war experience as unusual, extraordinary, and therefore unbelievable." The 68-year-old president, breaking a day of silence by election campaign aides said he found the whole matter was laughable and added: "The opposition has convinced me I really have another mission and that is to write the history of the guerrilla movement in the Philippines." Official U.S. army records also revealed that Mr. Marcos was arrested by an American army captain in 1944 for illegally collecting money. Mr. Marcos added: "The expression of incongruity means that perhaps there was something really good, something extraordinary in what I did."

The latest salvo from the United States, Mr. Marcos' main power, coincided with fresh congressional testimony in Washington that his wife was believed to be the owner of four multi-million dollar New York properties. Imelda Marcos, a 56-year-old former beauty queen, dismissed the wealth charges as lies in a campaign speech Friday. She broke off to point to her heart and declare: "Yes, I have hidden wealth. It's all here." A U.S. congressional subcommittee is holding hearing into allegations that she, her husband, and relatives bought property in the United States worth at least \$350 million. She blamed the opposition for saying "all those things, hidden wealth, cronyism, oppression... these are all lies." Mr. Marcos, who with 27 medals is the Philippines' most decorated soldier, called on war veterans Thursday night to fight for him and answer the charges about his war record.

Mixed turnout expected in Ulster polls

BELFAST (R) — A mixed turnout by voters was reported in Northern Ireland elections intended by Protestant politicians to demonstrate opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement giving Dublin a say in the affairs of the province. Polling officials reported above average attendance in several of the 15 constituencies being contested in a controversial series of by-elections forced by the resignation of Protestant members of parliament opposed to the accord. But with icy winds and snow showers covering much of the province, voting figures in some

other areas were down on those in the last general elections in 1983, according to preliminary estimates. While the poll was expected to deliver a firm "no" to the new accord from the Protestant majority pledged to maintain union with Britain, the exact size of the vote was not yet known. Unionist politicians are using the polls as a referendum against the agreement which they say is a first step towards reuniting Ireland. They say they hope for 500,000 votes in their favour and that anything less than the 1983 unionist

vote of around 420,000 would be a disappointment. Voting was reported to be highest in the four "marginal" constituencies, those in predominantly Roman Catholic-Nationalist areas where a single Nationalist candidate would be virtually assured of victory. However, a split vote between the moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and Sinn Fein, political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla group, is expected to ensure the unionists will be re-elected.

3 killed in bombing of Pakistani airline office

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Agencies) — A powerful bomb demolished the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) office in Peshawar, killing at least three people and injuring 29, authorities said Friday. The bomb exploded Thursday in the frontier city near the Afghanisthan border, shattering the office, which was packed with people making reservations, authorities said. It also severed pipes carrying natural gas and ignited the escaping gas, setting the building ablaze, they said. The blast was the latest in a series of bombings in Peshawar, about 65 kilometres from the border. A bomb blast Sunday in a butcher's shop killed a boy and injured 15 others. Peshawar is the headquarters for a number of Pakistan-based Afghan guerrilla groups fighting the government of Afghanistan.

About 3 million Afghan refugees live in Pakistan. Pakistani authorities link the bombings to the Afghan war and blame Khad, the secret service of the Afghan government. Rivalries among guerrilla factions are also blamed for some violence. The authorities, who declined to be named in keeping with official practice, said the bomb was very powerful and sophisticated, and apparently had been left near the state-owned airline's ticket counter. The three dead were identified as an airline employee, a contractor waiting to buy a ticket and a senior government official, Dr. Abdul Aziz Khan, deputy director general of the Ministry of Health. The explosion, the most spectacular of a series of bombings in the province, caused panic in Peshawar's garrison area, where the PIA building is located, witnesses said.

Blast kills 7 in Italian town

MODENA, Italy (R) — Seven people were killed when an explosion ripped through a three-storey apartment building on the outskirts of the north Italian city of Modena, police said. The death toll rose to seven Thursday afternoon with the discovery among the ruins of the bodies of two people who had previously been listed as missing. Five bodies, including those of two children, had been recovered earlier, police said. Twelve people, including two firemen, were injured in the mid-night blast and a fire which swept through the six apartments in the building immediately afterwards. Investigators said first reports suggested the explosion had occurred in a liquid gas container in the boot of a car in the building's garage.

U.K. diplomats washed in champagne

ON BOARD HMS JUPITER (R) — Diplomats in the British embassy in Aden washed in champagne and worked under tables while fighting raged outside, the British ambassador said. Ambassador Arthur Marshall told reporters on HMS Jupiter, a frigate in a British task force assisting evacuation efforts, that the embassy's water and electricity were cut off by the civil war in South Yemen. He said he and his staff spent the first five days of the conflict under tables in the embassy "with our heads down and telephones on the floor, trying to contact British subjects, diplomatic colleagues and local contacts." "Because there was no water, we were washing in champagne," said Marshall, who was among 18 Britons evacuated Friday.

Mother in coma for 21 years dies

TANABE, Japan (R) — A Japanese mother who had been in a coma for 21 years since delivering a baby boy died at the age of 62, a hospital spokesman said. The spokesman for Kian Sogo Hospital in western Japan told Reuters that Mrs. Iwako Ito never recovered consciousness after giving birth to her fifth child at home.

Man dies after eating too much comfrey

AUCKLAND (R) — A New Zealand coroner has issued a warning against eating too much comfrey after a man died of liver failure caused by the herb, Auckland coroner Stephen Osborne told an inquest that Paul Edward Neutze, 23, of Wellington, had been diagnosed in Australia as having progressive liver failure because comfrey formed a large part of his diet. Neutze returned to New Zealand and underwent surgery but was later admitted to the Auckland Hospital Critical-Care Unit. He suffered cardiac arrest and died on Oct. 31. "Let that be a warning to other like-minded people," said Dr. Osborne. "This young man had obviously not learnt the virtue of moderation in all things." The coroner said that several years ago he had been told Russian comfrey was a universal food, the answer to every known problem of man. But the way Neutze had died demonstrated that this sort of attitude was unbalanced. Osborne said comfrey might be innocuous, even beneficial, in moderation. Otherwise it was lethal.

Japanese schoolboy hangs himself

TOKYO (R) — A schoolboy hanged himself from the rail of his dormitory bunk-bed after being beaten by other students in the latest case of bullying in Japan's high schools, police said. The 15-year-old boy left a note reading: "I may be foolish to kill myself but I cannot endure any more. Goodbye." Police said seven of his schoolmates had beaten the boy on Monday night. The other students said he was a snob and anti-authority, and had not done his fair share of the dormitory cleaning. The boy's body was found the following morning. Students from the small school in the northern town of Morioka gathered in his honour. Rows of black-uniformed boys bowed their heads as one representative expressed the regrets of the group and wept. Bullying is a problem in many Japanese schools. Last year it caused several suicides and about 1,500 students were arrested for violent harassment.

Dog catchers net pets for hats

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow dog catchers employed to round up strays in the capital are in addition netting thousands of pets and selling their fur for hats on the black market, the government daily Izvestia has said. It described one centre near a school, where employees of the Municipal Refuse Collection Authority were empowered to trap strays. But it said they also killed dogs within earshot of the children and tossed the skins into the school yard. At certain times of the day, Izvestia said, pet owners queued outside the centre offering money to get their dogs and cats back. Animals that were not reclaimed soon became waste for sale on the black market. The daily said that in 1984, over 32,000 strays had been legally caught in Moscow and killed for scientific research, but the number of illegally trapped pets was incalculable.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1525 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CUTTING IT FINE

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ A Q 10 6 3 ♥ K 8 4 3 ♦ 6 ♣ J 7 5</p> <p>WEST</p> <p>♠ 9 8 5 2 ♥ A 6 ♦ A 8 3 2 ♣ K Q</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♠ K 7 4 ♥ C 10 ♦ K Q 7 5 4 ♣ 9 6 3 2</p> <p>SOUTH</p> <p>♠ J ♥ Q J 9 7 5 2 ♦ A 10 ♣ A 10 8 4</p>
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The bidding:
1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass
5 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass
7 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We all have a tendency to draw trumps at the first opportunity. That is a bad habit. There are often more urgent matters to be attended to.

East did his best to take advantage of the vulnerability. He jumped to four diamonds over North's take-out double, but South had too much distribution to be kept out of the auction, and his four heart bid